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効率厨魔導師、第二の人生で魔導を極める
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The Mage Will Master Magic Efficiently In His Second Life

(効率厨魔導師、第二の人生で魔導を極める)

Volume 01

Kenkyo na Circle

(謙虚なサークル)

Story Description:

Zeff Einstein spent his whole life mastering red magic and was finally recognized for it, yet a new spell that was soon created revealed that his talent for red magic was his lowest. Bitter at the thought of all his wasted effort, he creates a spell to send his old self back in time to his younger body and together with the determined “genius” mage Milly and the handsome swordswoman Claude, he intends to master magic more efficiently this time.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Intro to Magic

Systems of Magic:

「Red」

Flame magic proficient in attack spells, suppressing its power is very taxing on the body.

「Blue」

Water magic proficient in support, and interference, various effects can be learned from this branch of magic. Coincidentally the 「Scout Scope」 spell is also of the 「Blue」 branch.

「Green」

Magic affiliated with the earth and space. It's possible to control both space and the terrain if trained. There aren't many variations for this branch to be used, but it's very powerful.

「Sky」

Magic capable of interfering with the atmosphere, making control over wind and thunder possible. The whimsical nature of this branch makes it powerful, but very hard to control.

「Soul」

Magic of Angels and Demons. It's said, that if trained it's possible to deliver a message to either God or the Devil themselves... There aren't many practitioners of this branch, and not much is known about it...

Known Spells/Skills:

Skills:

「Meditation」- A skill used by magicians that circulates magic power through one's 'Magic Lines' to recover magic power quickly. Requires a lot of concentration.

Primary Spells:

「Red Ball」- A spell that creates a small ball filled with Red/Scarlet

system's magical power.

「Blue Ball」- A spell that creates a small ball filled with Blue system's magical power.

「Red Wave」- A spell that releases a burst of hot hair, the air is hot enough to singe someone's hair when exposed to it. Has a variety of uses if used correctly.

「Green Ball」- A spell that creates a small ball filled with Green system's magical power.

「Black Ball」- A spell that creates a small ball filled with Black system's magical power.

「Black Shot」- Rapid-fire use of the 'Black Ball' Spell.

「White Ball」(Soul System) – A spell that creates a small ball filled with Soul system's magical power. Unlike the other 'ball' spells, White ball can also purify its targets.

Intermediate Spells:

「Red Crash」- It's a spell that burns a narrow area with an explosive flame, it takes a lot of magic power to use but it's decent power evens things out.

「Red Wave」- Spell with the best magic power to attack power conversion, will continue on endlessly until the spell is canceled.

Great Spells:

「Black Thunder」- A spell that calls down a lightning strike on the enemy. Compared to other great spells 'Black Thunder' isn't as powerful, but it takes less magic power to use. Requires a cloudy sky.

Chant: "I beckon the spirits, shout like a storm, and roar like thunder, wipe out the foes before my eyes with the wrath of the heavens!"

「Blue Gale」- A spell that summons a tornado to blow away the castor's foes. Strong enough to send someone the size of a grown man flying.

Rank Unknown:

「Scout Scope」(Blue System) – A newly created spell that can visualize an individual's current strength as well as their limitations/potential. At low levels it can only display one's current strength, level and name. At higher levels can display talent limit, what spells the target can cast, what level the target's spells are, etc.

「Time Leap」(Red System?) – Zeff Einstein's Greatest spell (First Life), magic that can send one's consciousness into the past while keeping all memories already experienced. Unstable magic, it is unknown how far back one's consciousness will travel.

「Teleport」(System Unknown) – Spell of instantaneous movement, teleported area must be in user's line sight. Not usable in combat, or in close quarters.

「Magic Amplification」(System Unknown)- A spell that doubles the power of the next spell casted, while at the same time doubling magic consumption.

「Green Wall」- A spell that summons a wall of magical ivy that can bind and move the targets according to the castor's will. Has a wide area of effect.

「Unlock(No real name)」(System Unknown) – Spell taught to magician thieves, made for unlocking...locks.

「Defense Buff(No real name)」(System Unknown) – Spell that takes 90% of the damage from the next attack the castor takes. Has a long chant, so its not usable in the middle of battle.

Chapter 1: Prologue

The Mage Association

With many mages gathered, I was bathed in the center of their applause.

“Magician Zeff Einstien, with praise and respect towards your powerful magic, we bestow upon you the title of the strongest red mage, the ‘Flame of Flames’.”

“Haha, thank you.”

“Work hard to not shame this title.”

I’m an old man now, but yeah that’s me-The mage holding the red branch’s highest title, the ‘Flame of Flames’.

Ever since I was a child I’ve been entranced by red magic, this was the incentive I needed to get this far, to train this hard.

I devoted myself day after day to magic; wine, women, gold, and other all temptations of the world meant nothing compared to my study of red magic.

There’s a very deep feeling to it.

Among the thunderous applause, a hand slowly fell from the pulpit, silencing the audience. The gaze of a young mage could be seen.

He then slammed his fist down.

Popular spice. (TN: lol I don’t even...) It didn’t seem like an act of malice.

It was praise, saying to rejoice in the fact that it is commendable,but could still grow.

And disparages are, is outraged by being a fool, but also can be grown.

That stand out, he very efficient growth method. (TN: These two paragraphs... T^T) However, I’ll partake in this, for my further growth!

“I will aim for further heights! As the Flame of Flames, I’ll rise to be the

strongest among them!”

Wow~~~~~! !

While wrapped in a vortex of applause and cheers I pushed up my the right hand.

Pashapasha The sound of a miniature magic projector coming in could be heard.

Word also spread through the Mage Association’s distribution of the newspaper, which was released throughout the continent. This year, talk of the new magic master would be a hot topic.

–the following year.

I visited the Mage Association because of a new Magic spell called「Scout Scope」.

This is is something that magicians can use to measure their latent ability or talent, and learn what systems of magic they’d be compatible with.

‘Magic’ can basically be divided into five systems or branches.

「Red/Scarlet」

Flame magic proficient in attack spells, suppressing its power is very taxing on the body.

「Blue」

Water magic proficient in support, and interference, various effects can be learned from this branch of magic. Coincidentally the「Scout Scope」spell is also of the「Blue」branch.

「Green」

Magic affiliated with the earth and space. It’s possible to control both space and the terrain if trained. There aren’t many variations for this branch to be used, but it’s very powerful.

「Sky」

Magic capable of interfering with the atmosphere, making control over

wind and thunder possible. The whimsical nature of this branch makes it powerful, but very hard to control.

「Soul」

Magic of Angels and Demons. It's said, that if trained it's possible to deliver a message to either God or the Devil themselves... There aren't many practitioners of this branch, and not much is known about it...

These are the five systems of magic, or at least these are the five main systems that most Magicians train in.

I myself specialize in Red magic.

To measure someone's potential through「Scout Scope」, of course I'd be interested . It'd be good to show every mage this.

Although others couldn't use it very well, I naturally mastered it, and used it on myself.

The results for the strongest Red mage the 'Flame of Flame' were...

Zeph Einstein

Level 99

「Red/Scarlet」Magic level: 62/ 62

「Blue」Magic level: 49/ 87

「Green」Magic level: 22/99

「Sky」Magic level: 22/89

「Soul」Magic level: 19/97

Eh...?

My eyes involuntarily popped out.

The strongest red mage... has red magic as his lowest talent?!

No way!?

Although I re-checked it multiple times... the number didn't change.

'Levels' are a concept that have existed since long ago, whereas its

possible to forcefully obtain growth at a fast pace with its rise.

Though eventually, levels will stop rising and the growth will stop. This is called the 'talent limit', the end of training.

I myself, long ago, have felt the limits of my growth.

With a level of 99 you begin to think about these things.

However, are the hard-to-use/train「Green」and「Soul」systems really the ones with the highest potential?

They might've not trained as hard as me, but others may easily have greater potential for the「Red/Scarlet」system.

This is so wrong.

I wasn't always an old man... I used to be young too.

This can't be... I don't deserve an outcome like this!

The longer you study magic, the less you should expect near the end.

The fruits of all my training and research can't have all been a lie, I'd rather die than let things end like this!

Though I won't die! Even though I feel a bit dead inside...

Then, another red mage with a higher talent level took the title of 'Flame of Flames' away from me.

My limit was 62, while his was 99.

The Mage Association said that since my potential level was too low I was unworthy of the title.

I couldn't say anything in my defence.

With me reaching my maximum potential, it was time for a newer, younger mage to shine...

-and be given my title...

Even though he had the talent for it, with no combat experience there's no way I'll lose to some brat..

Although they didn't, I understand.

But I won't give up, I'll keep walking the path of a mage until my death.

I struggled, to end the suffering of training even a second sooner.

On the verge of death I finally created a new spell.

I spent many years waiting, to release the magic I've engraved into this body.

「Time Leap」

My spirit left my body, traveling through space-time back to the past.

The spell was still incomplete though, only knowledge was passed over, and I'll have to re-train my magic all over again.

But luckily, I like training.

Unstable, yes, and I don't know how far back the spell will take me, but this time I'll take advantage of my knowledge and 「Scout Scope」to the fullest.

My consciousness rapidly disappeared, and turned white.

And...

"Zeph, you'll be late for school! Get up!"

A white bed, my mother's voice, and the smell of miso soup.

My body had been returned to that of a boy's.

I went back to a good time.

Luck seems to be on my side.

It's hard to move my body though.

I honestly didn't think it would go so well.

It would be nice to say that it was a great success.

I pointed my index finger towards the window, and draw out the spell for the elementary level red magic 「Red Ball」.

But it didn't activate.

"No way..."

I focus on my body, but the magic power lines that should flow through it aren't responding well.

I have to fix this as soon as possible. Forget level of potential, a mage that can't use magic isn't a mage at all!

...but at the moment I'm hungry.

"Ah, I'm coming mom!"

As I ran down the stairs, seeing my mother's face for the first time in such a while, I cried a little bit.

Mother saw my tear-stained face, and laughed gently.

To such a nostalgic smile, the tears wouldn't stop flowing.

"What is it Zeph? Did you see a scary dream?"

"No... I'm just... Happy is all..."

"What a funny child."

I who has lived until an old man, painfully knows the importance of time.

I can't even waste one second. I must train my magic efficiently this time.

I wiped my tears, and when I tasted my mom's food for the first time in a while, I cried again.

幽平厨

Chapter 2: Magic Lines

“Goodbye and take care!”

After eating that nostalgic breakfast, I remembered from what mother said that I had to go to school.

Regrettably, now I have to go to school . Come to think of it, I wonder if there are any schools that teach magic in the capital.

Incidentally, the classes here are feared by children for certain reasons.

Upon exiting the house, a nostalgic scenery could be seen before me.

Here, the city of Nanami is a good city dwelling inside a good country.

Even after I grew up and left, I still came back here many times because I missed it.

Oh man, the tears are flowing again.

Anyway let’s go!

– To release the magic lines.

Outside, I was in a place somewhere in between the hills and the school.

Since, releasing the magic lines will take quite a bit of concentration and time.

Magic lines spread throughout the entire body of the mage, they are literally lines that magic pass through.

The magic of a talented mage is thick, so it has to be spread evenly throughout the body.

However, my magic lines are now in a dormant state, it’s not possible to channel magic through them.

For those who aspire to become mages, normally you ask another mage to release the magic lines for you, but while meditating, I can open them up myself if I try.

It’s the second time I’ve done this after all, there shouldn’t be any

problems.

I climbed a tree and scouted the area before hand, to make sure the coast was clear.

I sat down on a tree branch and closed my eyes, concentrating on my spirit.

Feeling something wash over my body, I could feel my magic lines opening one by one.

This was delicate work, I could feel the sweat from my forehead dripping down my face while concentrating.

I continued to open my magic lines one by one, and by the time I was done my body was all sweaty.

Heaving a huge breath, all the strength left my body, and I almost slipped and fell.

...I forgot that I was on a tree.

After catching my breath, I concentrated on the magic lines, and found magic flowing through them smoothly.

Now it's time to use magic.

With my hand held out in front of me, I imagined a red ball.

Then small magic ball of flames was born, it looked fluffy and was floating at about eye level.

The fire was moving oddly.

If I stopped supplying magical power, the red ball would dematerialize.

The magic consumed about a tenth of my magic power.

Ordinary rookie mages would at most only be able to cast red ball three times. Another way to put it would be that if the other children here became mages that's what they'd be like.

"It wasn't useless in the end."

It won't be the same as it was before.

The sun was just past its noon point.

Come to think of it, I'm actually really hungry now.

It was time to eat the lunch packed by mom anyway.

The me of the future read many scrolls on magic, I think I read almost everything published at the time.

Although I can barely use magic now, I'll learn more as the growth level increases.

Though it wasn't as delicious as it would've been fresh, the bulging belly of my child sized body was satisfied.

Oh yeah, since my magic power has recovered somewhat, why don't I use scout scope?

Zeph Einstein

Level 1

「Red」 Magic level: 1

「Blue」 Magic level: 1

「Green」 Magic level: 0

「Sky」 Magic level: 0

「Soul」 Magic level: 0

The consumption of scout scope feels higher than red ball.

Red and Blue are level 1 because I used these two spells.

I like how the talent/potential cap can't be seen, but this is probably due to my low level use of scout scope.

Magic is improved the more you use it, the consumption decreases with proficiency too.

To see the potential cap, I probably don't have to increase the magic's level that many times.

Anyways I was able to remember some spells.

I'm still far from my future self though, I have many challenges to face in the future to grow.

When I looked down, I saw a whole bunch of children scatter towards the school.

This... will be another challenge.

That's just how school is.

To spend my day like this, I have a bad feeling something's gonna happen.

What is this?

It might've left quick, but I felt it.

As I climbed down and walked towards town, I saw a figure approaching me.

With disheveled, long black hair, she ran over here while heavily breathing.

She wore glasses and a sweater that made it so that each step made her large chest bounce.

I was fascinated for a moment before she cried out tearfully.

"Zeph-kun!"

Okay, time to use the excuse I prepared.

But as I was about to say it, my voice was muffled when she pulled me into her chest.

While making a Mogomogo sound, my face was completely overwhelmed by her adult force.

While I was enjoying this feeling, I noticed that her body was trembling.

"I-I was worried..."

She said while I was pressed against her chest that was comparable to a cow's – it felt good, like I could cry out saying it felt good good.

Oh yeah, I just remembered something.

This was my primary school teacher, I think she was called Claire-sensei.

She was popular with both the male and female students, and had been confessed to many times by men.

To a teacher of such beauty, my face was being smushed into her chest.

(Come to think of it, I've never done anything like this before...) A small smile crept up my face.

School was probably in an uproar when I didn't show, so mom and Claire-sensei probably freaked out, but it's a waste of time to worry too much about it so I'll just let it be.

I need to get through this time as soon as possible, but it'll probably take a while.

At least I can still do my training while going to school.

With plans in my head, I enjoyed the feeling of the chest being pushed into my face.

ぎゅう。

Chapter 3: Difficult Magic

The next day, I was forced to go to school.

Mom and Claire-sensei from before were so scary I didn't want to raise my head.

The hour long class was too boring, so I took the time to sleep instead of listening.

As soon as the lesson was completed, I ran out to the washroom.

It's not because I needed to go.

Its for training my magic.

Once in the washroom, I closed the door and leaned on the wall, while focusing magic power into my palm.

「Green Ball」

Suddenly, a green ball of magic was created in my hands.

– Green system primary magic: Green Ball.

Magic of the Green system has high power but a narrow range of effects, it's not developed enough to show any strong effects yet.

For strong high-level demons, I need difficult magic.

The fluffy ball of magic that was floating over my hand eventually disappeared because I cut off its magic supply.

With a heavy breath, I concentrated magic into my palm again.

「Black Ball」

I then created a black sphere of magic.

Its bustling around dizzily.

-Sky system primary magic: Black Ball.

Although this system is very fast, it's difficult to control and has low power.

This is also, a difficult system to learn.

The two spells were activated in rotation consistently until the bell for the next lesson rang.

Sky and Green, these two systems were rarely used in my previous life, but are going to be my main systems in this one, considering that they had the highest talent values.

Red and Blue are easy to use in their own way, but I need to make the other two systems a habit.

Although they weren't used much before, this time will be different.

Therefore it's necessary to increase the level of my magic by even a little bit now.

I enter the class a minute before class starts and immediately start sleeping.

I need to sleep to restore my used magic quicker.

Using Claire-sensei's voice as a lullaby, my consciousness quickly left me.

"Hey, Zeph!"

At the end of class, as I was about to leave for the washroom when a boy a bit on the chubby side started talking to me.

With a weird grin on his face, he gave me a look, as if sizing me up.

When I tried to ignore him, the other boys came out and blocked my way.

What the heck?

"Hey Zeph, why do you always go to the washroom?"

"...Why are you asking? What, do you need to go first?"

"Huh?"

In response to my answer, the boys showed an amazed face and started laughing. Gehyagehya Like a ripple in the water, soon all the students were laughing.

“Oh ~~~~”

Wait, does this mean that I was teased?

I wonder if they’re like this because they’re children.

While scratching their heads and making weird noises, all the boys surrounding me started chanting vulgar words in unison.

Wow, I think these guys need a little discipline.

I pointed my hand towards the leader of the boys, and created a red ball.

The fireball was shot right beside the boy’s head, and burnt out before reaching the wall.

Hmm... so it can only fly that far now, huh.

Even though I say that, it was still enough to scare the crap out of the boy, making him collapse on the floor.

Leaking out, the smell of urine and burnt air hung over in the classroom.

To the boy, I looked down at him with a bloodthirsty gaze for an instant.

“I don’t like these sort of things, you know?”

I grinned while saying so, and the boy fainted.

Turning around, I took a step forward and all the boys surrounding me scrambled out of the way while yelping.

I walked towards the washroom while thrusting my hands into my pocket.

There were no shortage of people like this from my previous life, but maybe that was a bit much with a kid as an opponent.

As I opened the washroom door, the first bell started ringing.

Shit, I wasted a period I could’ve used training.

–after school.

While everyone else was walking in the direction of their homes, I was heading the opposite way.

My destination was the suburbs, why? Well it's because I can hunt monsters that are outside the city there.

I conjured a green ball in my hand while walking, and I felt the power value of the green system increase.

As you can see its level went up.

I can train magic like this by shooting it at some empty area if I wanted, but using the magic in actual combat is far more efficient.

'Blank firing' magic is one way to cultivate it, but Scout Scope shows the difference of growth between Blanks and actually fighting easily.

The town of Nanami is surrounded by a wall, but there are several gates in it guarded by gatekeepers, I'm in the town no more.

I could leave without any problems through the gates, and walked towards the wilderness.

When going out, don't forget to bring a wooden stick in advance.

Just by walking out a little, you can see blue jelly-like monsters appear in front of you.

This guy that seemed to just sprout from the ground, is a demon belonging to the Blue element, a Bluezel. (TN: Buruzeru = Bluezel, good enough?) The earth is full of magic, this demon is created from rainwater that soaked into it.

The city was grown through magic by the patrons, demons won't generate there, but they'll attack at first sight the moment you step outside.

With my wooden stick in hand, I casted green ball while smashing it.

Bo Young The impact made the Bluezel tumble along the ground, but... it's still alive! It stretched its tentacles towards me!

"Shit!"

The Tentacles hit the stick while I casted green ball again.

I pummeled it while casting greenball, eventually the Bluezel

disappeared after about 10 shots.

All of today's time will be used to train my magic.

After defeating the monster, I could feel a force grow in my body.

This is called the 'experience value', if you raise it to a certain extent you'll gain a level.

While feeling the force increase, I took a little break to recover my magical power.

Chapter 4: Bandits

Zeph Einstein

Level 5

「Red」Magic level: 2

「Blue」Magic level: 2

「Green」Magic level: 5

「Sky」Magic level: 4

「Soul」 Magic level: 0

After a week of continuous Bluezel hunting in the town's vicinity, my levels have developed accordingly.

The reason why 'Soul' is the only one still at zero is because you need a magic stone to act as a medium to practice this system.

That's why for now, this can't be used.

Only Bluezels appear in the vicinity of Nanami.

Bluezels are a really weak kind of demon.

For now I can only beat small demons, so the Experience gain isn't very good.

It's going to take a while to raise my level.

When they come close, strike them with the stick, and when they're far away, bombard them with green balls. Currently, this is how I've been beating them.

Yup, this is a steady way to grow stronger.

Before I noticed, another Bluezel started forming at my feet!

This Bluzel was double their regular size.

It caught me. I tried to untangle myself, but it was too strong.

My leg was caught by a tentacle, and I was hung upside down over it.

Its top opened up, and it was going to stuff me inside it!

The Bluezel was going to eat me!

...Don't screw with me.

I positioned my hand towards the Bluezel's mouth, and concentrated my magic.

"Red Crash!"

When I released the spell, from my hand an explosive flame shot out and completely eradicated the Bluezel.

I fell to the ground, into the center of the Bluezel's remains leftover from my attack.

My clothes got dirty from the all the mud and water.

"Man, now mom's going to get mad at me."

I used up all my magic on that spell.

- Red system intermediate magic: Red Crash.

It's a spell that burns a narrow area with an explosive flame, it takes a lot of magic power to use but it's decent power evens things out.

This makes it most useful for enemies a short distance away.

But because it takes a while to use the spell, I decided to only use the spell when absolutely necessary. Like right now when that huge Bluezel appeared.

Soon regular Bluezels started appearing again, but I haven't recovered enough magic power to start casting Green Ball again.

While retreating, I focused my mind.

-Meditation.

Circulating all leftover magic throughout your body by your magic lines is technique used to restore magic power a few times faster than normal.

Meditation is usually done while sitting, but I can do it while standing, while walking, and on top of that I can even do it in combat.

Cast Green Ball, then recover.

Cast Green Ball, then recover.

After repeating this process several times, I was able to defeat another two Bluezels.

"Whoa."

After defeating the Bluezels, I found a blue gem.

"It's a blue gem..."

After defeating a monster, the magic contained in its body and the magic in the earth can fuse, creating an item.

Although this is supposedly a trash item.

I won't get much gold from it by selling it at a store.

I stuffed the blue gem in my pocket, and decided to end the day after meditating.

"...I need to go home soon."

Fighting in the dark is too risky.

I also need to prepare myself for something else.

"Mom's going to be mad at me."

On the way back, while I was meditating, a horse-drawn carriage hurried towards the city.

It was a medium sized caravan.

If it belonged to a peddler, I want to see if they had any rare magic items.

I don't have any gold though.

For now, let's just go home.

As I lost sight of the caravan, I could hear a scream from afar.

As I turned towards the direction of the girl's scream, I could see fire rising from the carriage.

I couldn't see very well because of the distance, but it looked like a fight or something.

The demons around here couldn't do something like that.

So that means...

"Their hired adventurers betrayed them."

They were probably thieves dressed as adventurers from the beginning.

However, this situation, while unfortunate for the people in the caravan, was the perfect opportunity for me.

If I help them now, they might give me an expensive item after as a reward.

But with the magic I have now, I'm still really weak.

According to how adventurers grade themselves anyways.

But I can't afford to not do anything!

While thinking about how to act, a girl on a horse was riding towards me.

Apparently, she'd escaped from the fight.

With a pale face, she stopped in front of me.

"Hey you! Run away! I'll go inform the city, so hide!"

After saying that, suddenly an arrow could be seen sticking out of the girl's chest.

The girl looked down at the arrowhead surrounded by blood, and coughed, staining the trail with more of it.

Slowly, the girl fell off her horse, and as if in slow motion, she stretched her hand towards me and pointed in the opposite direction.

While the light in her eyes disappeared, she mouthed two words to me.

"Run away."

I wonder why.

I walked up to the girl who to her last breath was worried about me, and gently closed her eyes.

While moving my line of sight from the girl towards the caravan, two of the thieves disguised as adventurers were coming here... riding a horse.

One lowered the bow he was holding, smiled, and started laughing at me.

Slowly, he took and arrow from his quiver, and nocked it on the bow.

He purposely did the process of aiming as slowly as possible because he wanted to see my frightened appearance.

And for that, I thank you thief.

As the thief slowly drew the bow to its limit, I casted black shot.

With power that wouldn't lose to an arrow, a magic bullet of wind pierced both of the thieves heads at once.

When the two thieves fell from the horse, the other thieves noticed, and saw me.

They seemed to be very upset that two of their comrades were killed by a child mage.

But I'm calm.

A little while ago, I got a bit emotional, but I've settled down now.

In this world, people like this don't deserve to live.

I can't remember how many of these scumbags I've killed in my previous life.

Smart and efficient, that's my motto.

So...

"I'll hunt you hyenas!"

Chapter 5: Great Magic

Black clouds started forming overhead.

It started to rain, the wind picked up too.

“I want to finish this before it becomes a storm.”

There was a considerable distance between the bandits and I.

The spell I used a little while ago, ‘Black Shot’ is the rapid-fire version of its ‘ball’ form.

The Sky system focuses on speed, but with that said, it’s rapid fire magic can still be avoided so I have be careful about that.

I only got those other guys because they were careless.

The thieves scattered to my left and right. They all kept their distance while aiming their bows at me.

With a mage as their opponent, they could either fight me through a long distance battle, or directly assault me knowing that some of them will die.

They decided on the former.

At least that’s what I assume they’re doing. Predicting this, I shot out Red Wave before they could spread out too far.

– Red system primary ranged magic: Red Wave.

Its a spell that constantly shoots out hot air, also doing a small amount of magic damage.

Although its a low-power spell, depending on how you use it, it’ll be useful for various situations, like being a distraction or... Stoping movement.

Hot air spread across the ground, burning the thieves hair.

“Hihyi~i~in!”

Suddenly being exposed to hot air like that, its not suprising they’d react like that.

The thieves riding horses were burnt, and stopped their movement.

My magic can't reach that far yet, I won't be able to kill them from this position.

If I can defeat one of them with magic, it'll be tough to fight the other three, especially now since they're vigilant against me.

Oh well... Let's just kill them all at once.

"No choice but to use Great Magic."

It was already raining, but as if in response to what I said, the storm seemed to get stronger.

Now would be suitable.

I collected all the magic in my body into my hands, and started chanting.

"I beckon the spirits, shout like a storm, and roar like thunder, wipe out the foes before my eyes with the wrath of the heavens!"

"Black Thunder!"

The sound of lightning could be heard from the black clouds covering the sky, when it suddenly poured down on them.

A dazzling light engulfed everything I could see, then a thunder clap resounded after a slight delay.

In place of where the thieves stood was nothing but a tremendous cloud of dust rising into the air, which was subsiding quickly in the wind and rain.

I could feel the increase of experience, so I think I defeated all of them.

After the dust settled, I went to check the place the lightning stuck.

The ground was gouged out where it fell, the soil was burnt black, and the thieves had disappeared without a trace.

My breathing was heavy, even though I feel like passing out, I needed to stay concious even a minute longer.

When you use too much magic, you put a great burden on your body.

Great Magic's magic consumption is quite large.

Right now, probably because I went beyond the limits of my magic, its completely exhausted.

I sat down, and repeatedly took deep breaths, again and again.

–Meditation.

I think I feel a little better now.

Sky system Great Magic: Black Thunder.

Even though its magic consumption is small compared to other Great Magic, and the fact that you can only cast the spell when there's cloudy weather, this spell has alot of defects to it, but if you ask me...

Looking at the aftermath of the spell, it was still a really powerful attack.

It was hardly used, but the remains just scream that a big spell was used here.

(TN: まぁ殆ど使い道はないのだが、腐っても大魔導と言ったところか。

The last sentence anyone?)

I continued to meditate while thinking about things like that.

Meditation,

Meditation,

Meditation,

After a long period of meditation my magic had recovered to some extent, I don't think I'll pass out anytime soon, but I still feel kind of sick.

As I turned to the caravan, there was a rather fat man staring at me.

I guess I fufilled my original purpose.

I turned towards the direction of the girl's body and put my hands together in prayer.

After that I turned around and made my way towards the caravan.

“How wonderful! You helped us! To be able to use such powerful magic at your age is amazing!”

The middle-aged man with a bundled shaggy beard lavished praise towards me.

Pehaps he’s the leader of the caravan. To a boy, such as I, he probably feels really weird asking for help.

Power controls the world after all, you need to treat anyone with power above yourself with respect so that you won’t be found offensive.

This man also seems to understand that.

“I’m so lucky. If I were to try and fight them, I would’ve been killed. I really have to thank you!”

“Don’t thank me, my performance was disappointing, I wasn’t even able to prevent that lady from before from dying.”

“The worst-case scenario was still avoided though, and for that, I’m lucky!”

Although I don’t think his luck is that good.

Okay, now its time to reap the rewards.

“Anyways for now, are you alright? I’m a mage but because I don’t have any magic Items I won’t be able to treat you if you’re hurt…”

To my fastball request, the caravan leader gave me a blank look.

Crap, was I too direct? Not good, negotiations were never my thing in my past life.

But then his face immediately changed to a smile.

“Ha ha ha. Yes, that is so. Words of gratitude wouldn’t be enough for what you’ve done. Of course I’ll give you something.”

I guess I’m lucky that I still look like a child. It would’ve been rude to protest against my decision a little, but I guess I was given a break.

I was never very good at reading the subtleties of the human mind since the old days.

“But because I’m not truly prepared to reward you while my caravan is like this, after we go to town, could you find me tomorrow? ”

“All right.”

After that the caravan went to town.

I got to ride the carriage too, the people who’s lives were just attacked treated me like I was one of the grand heroes in stories.

Maybe if I didn’t come there would’ve been more casualties. I wonder if any are that girl’s family.

No, it won’t be that way. I’ve seen many times when couples are seperated death.

Its too bad but, that’s just how things are.

(TN:　仕方があるまい。ワシも長年連れ添ったパーティメンバーと死に別れた事など幾度としてある。

First line, anyone?)

After we returned to town and seperated, I went home.

The lights in the house were left on even though it was quite late at night.

Of course... Mom was probably still awake and was going to give me another hour-long sermon.

While I was thinking of what kind of face mom would make after I entered, probably because I was really tired from everything, I accidentally walked into the door and hit my head.

Chapter 6: Teleport

-Meditation

With a concentrated mind, it's an efficient technique for recovering magical power.

You need to spread the magic around the body through your magic lines, you have to be careful because much of it is lost if done wrong.

It takes many years of practice before one can do an efficient meditation.

"...wake~? ...eph?"

"....."

"Zeph~!!"

"Yeah~! Sorry Mom~!"

Mom's probably gonna give me an angry glare today too.

She was probably worried about me since I came back so late at night, her sermon that day was way too long.

It was almost two hours of non-stop preaching (I was meditating while she did it), a lot of magic power was restored because of it.

After eating a cold meal and returning to my room, I remembered to check my growth with scout scope and sat down on the bed.

Zeph Einstein

Level 7

「Red」Magic level: 6/62

「Blue」Magic level: 6/87

「Green」Magic level: 9/99

「Sky」Magic level: 8/89

「Soul」 Magic level: 0/97

Whoa, scout scope's proficiency rose.

I guess I have been using it often recently.

Soul still has a magic level of 0, but that might change after I get my reward from the leader of the caravan tomorrow before training.

That's fine for now.

I dropped into my bed while looking forward to after school tomorrow, and fell asleep.

I ran to the inn that the Caravan group was staying in after school.

After calling out to the innkeeper, a girl with black bob-cut hair came over and greeted me.

"I was waiting."

After being guided by the girl, I was passed to the leader from before.

"Oh~! You came! Welcome Zeph-dono! Welcome!"

That must've been a lame habit of his, saying welcome all the time.

It might be a good idea in his head so he likes it, but it's just a bad habit to me. I hope he changes his ways soon.

It's good to see you too, so can you show me it now?"

"Here's our selection for mages Zeph-dono, choose whatever magic item you want. These have been prepared specifically for you."

The little girl who was standing by until now opened a door for me, and inside a large amount of magic items that were probably stacked inside the wagon were crammed inside.

"Can I take all of it?"

"You're joking right? Even if you could, wouldn't it be impossible for you to bring it all back?"

Are you laughing because you don't think I can do it, or because of the joke?

Well, it's true that there's nowhere to put it.

"I'm joking, but anyways lets see what you've got."

“Of course.”

He answers while projecting his thick belly, he’s hearty, but generous.

Anyways, without reserve I just jumped in there.

I hunted through the magic items.

It was a lot of fun. It was like opening a toy box where I had no idea what was inside. I was thrilled.

I ignored the scrolls used in order to learn new magic. They were too bulky.

Then I saw the slightly expensive accessories with special effects.

This I had to check out.

I found a ring modeled after the bones of a snake among the large number of items.

– Snake bone ring.

Soul magic requires a gem to act as a medium when casting.

The more powerful spells require an expensive medium, but the snake bone ring has the effect of being able to use elementary magic without consuming the medium required for it.

First there’s this, and then there was...

– Teleport earrings.

This accessory allows the use of a special magic called ‘Teleport’, which allows the instant movement of anywhere in the user’s field of view.

However, it requires a lot of concentration, and magic power, so it’s difficult to use in combat.

Avoiding the opponent’s attack by a hair’s breath by teleporting behind their back, such coordination would be impossible.

In the first place, this magic is difficult to use in close quarters.

It’s quite the handy magic for movement though.

Also, it’s said to be one of the Mage’s essential accessories.

After that there wasn't anything particularly noticeable.

A high conversion ratio of the accessories that I can receive and how much they cost were shown above.

I quickly left with the chosen items wrapped in cloth.

Although the caravan's leader was a little confused about my sudden behavior, there's no reason to stop.

Well, it's better for me to have the items rather than the thieves right?

So I won't refrain myself.

"Anyway thanks."

"Ehh~~... yes, by all means come again if you have the chance."

I left the room while casting gazes at the leader, If I looked in the mirror I'd probably have a tired look on my face.

As I left I was guided by the same girl who led me inside towards the exit, when suddenly she turned around and lowered her head towards me.

"What's the matter?"

"Onii-chan, thank you for taking revenge for my sister."

"Oh... No, don't worry about it. I did that for myself."

"We were his slaves. Even though the next day the both of us would've been free."

The girl's unexpectedly mature for her age, she had a lonely look on her face.

She'd probably struggled through the years.

But right now she seems really small.

I grasped her hand, and passed her one of the accessories from the wrapped cloth.

"This is to help you grow, so that you can obtain freedom one day, I bought it myself."

Although it hurts my conscious a bit, one slave is worth way more than

the accessory.

I wrapped her hands around it, she took it up and held it in front of her face.

“...Okay?”

“A white treasure?”

(TN: I assume the ‘White Treasure’ is the Bone ring... wait... does this mean he unknowingly just proposed to her?! Is this a flag for a harem member in the future?! O_o) I took my leave that the inn girl postponed.

I ended up with less than I wanted.

Well if it’s me, I can earn this much again eventually.

There wasn’t anymore time to go anywhere else today, so I could only go back home to rest.

My home was in view from the mountain, so I activated teleport.

I reached home in an instant.

It was the first time I used it in a long time, but it’s a really useful spell.

It has a variety of uses.

Chapter 7: Train

–after school.

Students will usually look forward to this time of the day.

For students, there's a lot one can do at this time, such as studying.

It's the opposite for me.

After getting the teleport earrings and the snake bone ring, my range of actions have increased.

'Soul' magic interferes with the underworld, so against undead it's highly effective, especially if they have an ethereal body.

(TN: Oh... I guess he kept it, I wonder what the gift was then.) Monsters of this kind are hard to beat with normal attacks, but if you use 'Soul' magic it's easy to beat them, and for their level they give a large amount of experience too.

There's not that many of them so hunting is limited, but I'm lucky that there's a low level hunting ground around here.

Good thing I remembered the place.

I immediately left for the suburbs outside the city, and teleported to a rock I could see in the distance.

Wow, I covered quite a bit of ground.

This sure is a useful spell.

Bluezels were popping out of the ground, but I ignored them.

Teleport, teleport...

I forced my body through the scenery.

While steadily advancing, the sky suddenly became overcast and dark.

I guess I'm close to my destination.

Soon, I could see an old building in the corner of my eyes.

There.

Before I teleported to the said building though, I started meditating.

I used up quite a bit of magic to get here.

The church's framework was quite decayed.

In the old days it was also an orphanage, there used to be a lot of children here, but now nobody remains, no one comes here even if they want to visit a church.

With no one living here, the patron's boundaries that had defended the church eventually decayed, and turned this place into a dungeon.

It's a place for the dead to roam now.

When I was still a beginner mage, I came here with my master.

I teleported over to the church because my magic had recovered.

– The church was decayed.

The trees only held crows and no leaves, while black clouds hung over the sky.

The undead prefer dark places, so the places they gather become dark, it's either that, or they gather there because the area was already dark.

It's a chicken-or-the-egg question.

Either is fine though.

While I was thinking of stupid stuff like that, things that looked like people started crawling out of the ground.

–Zombies.

When the magic of a dungeon gathers inside of a human corpse, it turns into a monster and starts to attack people.

...and there were three of them.

noro noro Zombies won't stop moving until they're close enough to attack, but they're too slow.

I imagined shooting white balls while using the three zombies as targets.

A small white light enveloped the snake bone ring, then suddenly light bullets started shooting out of my palm, blowing away the three zombies.

"In one hit, that's... a little disappointing."

Soul magic has a great magic consumption rate.

Many of its higher tier spells really strain a magician's magic power.

White ball, unlike the other 'ball' spells is capable of purifying its targets.

"Okay... let's continue."

It was hard not to laugh, the zombies became lumps in an instant from my spells.

"Hmm~ ♪ ~ ♪"

In the eerie atmosphere of the cemetery, I walked while humming.

There were a lot of zombies in the back. I think about twenty or so.

While groaning, they limped lazily towards me.

"Here I come!"

I held up my hand towards the zombies, and imagined the white ball.

In the next moment dozens of white lights shot towards the zombies, the ones that became tattered and full of holes slowly returned to the earth.

At the same time.

Suddenly, I could feel a rising force.

My level went up.

I defeated twenty zombies worth a lot of experience.

Forget one zombie, I just defeated twenty.

Of course it'd go up.

To deliberately gather the enemy, I implemented a tactic that would gather them all in a line called a 'train'. It's a tactic that helps me

consume less magical power.

However if you do it poorly, you'll end up gathering too much and end up fighting an entire horde, so it's not recommended for amateurs. Considering the risks, and that their movement is slow, it's easy to use this on the stupid zombies.

I walked around obliterating hordes of zombies, more spawned almost right after.

According to the presences, there was an uncountable number of enemies.

Again, this is a really good hunting ground.

I wonder how many hours have passed.

Before I noticed it became fun mid-way.

This is a bad habit of mine that been going on since the old days.

It would've been better to get rid of it, but I wouldn't have gotten to where I was before without this habit.

By the way, mom's also familiar with this habit, so she won't get mad if I'm only a little late.

(TN: I think it refers to how his mom knows that he loses himself when 'playing' and that's why he's always late coming home. She doesn't know he's fighting monsters.) "I have to go home soon."

As I exited the church, I obliterated the zombie hordes that come up with white ball.

I teleported many times to get back from the church, and by the time I got home it was starting to get dark.

I didn't get a scolding because I was back right before dinner was about to be ready.

Immediately after I went straight to my room and checked my progress with scout scope.

Zeph Einstein

Level 10

「Red」Magic level: 6/62

「Blue」Magic level: 6/87

「Green」Magic level: 10/99

「Sky」Magic level: 8/89

「Soul」 Magic level: 9/97

Looks like a good balance.

I'm going to continue hunting at the rotting church for a while.

Even outside of Soul magic, I want to be able to beat zombies with one blow.

Perhaps it would work if I used intermediate spells.

As my magic power grows to a higher levels, it becomes more difficult to raise.

Maybe the actual requirements for growth could be shown through scout scope when its proficiency rises.

Green and Sky should have already been used twice as much as the other systems, but the difference isn't that big.

Even though it's my first day using it, my 'Soul' magic has already caught up to the rest.

Well I did defeat a huge number of zombies that give plenty of experience, so it's only natural it's like that right?

I'll train all the systems to a certain extent, ordinary mages usually only focus on one system intensely, but in the life I want to grow all my systems to their limits.

After making more plans for training I went to bed for the night.

Chapter 8: Boss

"Black Thunder!"

Several streaks of lightning arced from the thundercloud, obliterating zombies left and right.

The decayed church always has cloudy weather.

Its chant is quite long, even if it's to use a spell like Black Thunder, if the conditions aren't met it's impossible to use. Though if all my opponents are slow-moving zombies...

That's all the Great Magic that the me of this time can use.

Even though the magic consumption is better than the time I battled the thieves, it still takes about 70% of my magic pool.

So I better start meditating.

Even if it's enough to defeat them with White Ball, I need to stay accustomed to using difficult systems like Green and Sky.

If I'm at a high level, but suddenly have to use one of the difficult systems, I want to avoid only being to use them at a low level.

Recently, with Black Thunder as the center, I've also been experimenting with other spells.

Although White Ball is still my main spell in this area.

After I finished meditating it was time to make another train, I could see a distant swarm of zombies gathering in the shadow of the building.

Wait... I think I can see something amidst the mobs.

If I looked closely I could make out the details, wielding a bishop's staff and a gilded crown, was a skeleton with a billowing red cloak.

It's dark eye sockets were empty, but unexpectedly I could feel a strong will when I looked into them.

"The King of Death..."

The boss of the Decaying Church.

It appears after a fixed period of time, the usual monsters that spawn can't even be compared to its strength.

Its outer shell is covered with powerful magic that can shrug off most attacks, subduing it won't be easy.

It might be tough, but the reward would be a huge, HUGE amount of experience, as well as a high chance of dropping rare items that can be sold for a good price.

Basically I can't defeat it alone, I need to fight in cooperation with a party, as I am now I can't do anything to it.

Though I said that, there are stories of people defeating boss monsters solo, as long as they kept their magic consumption in check and made careful preparations, it is possible.

"If I remember correctly, Master also used to hunt boss monsters in his earlier days.'"

It might come straight for me the moment I set foot in its domain.

With a grin and a small chuckle, I muttered 'I'll be back' under my breath and teleported away in the opposite direction.

Watching Zeph run away was a girl standing in the shadow of a tree.

"He was... probably a mage from the city of Nanami."

Said the girl as she checked the results of Scout Scope.

Zeph Einstein

Level 16

「Red」Magic level: 12/62

「Blue」Magic level: 11/87

「Green」Magic level: 13/99

「Sky」Magic level: 12/89

「Soul」 Magic level: 15/97

"Zeph huh... He's not too bad but..."

The girl held up a hand to the mass of zombies, and casted Blue Gale.

A tornado smashed into the zombies, throwing them up into the air as if dancing.

“He’s nothing big if he ran away from something of this level~♪”

Suddenly, next to the laughing girl a black sphere of magic exploded.

Immediately after, while raising a small scream to the burst of magic behind her, the girl looked towards the tornado and saw her assaulter advancing towards her. The King of Death.

“Wha-!?”

After using a Great Spell of the Blue System like Blue Gale, she didn’t have the concentration to cast teleport immediately.

The girl jumped back, but her Blue Ball spells couldn’t stop the progression of the King of Death.

As it drew closer, her feet froze at the sight of its expressionless skull face... and was able to recite teleport at the last minute.

Losing sight of the girl, the King of Death resumed wandering its domain.

Ha~tsu... Ha~tsu... “That was way too close...”

(TN: Heavy breathing sounds)

And leaned on the wall, girl wipe the forehead while seen in the sideways glance the king of the dead, he smiled a triumphant smile.

The girl leaned on the wall, wiping the sweat off of her forehead, and while she gave the King of Death a sideways glance, a triumphant smile appeared on her face.

“Th-that’s right! Its not like I was the only one to run away! That kid also tried to fight and he ran, I only panicked because I wasn’t expecting a foe like you! So until we meet again, my sweet!”

In a corner of the Decaying Church, a pitiful excuse could be heard, but the beings it reached weren’t only the zombies.

–A few days later.

I usually go to sleep as soon as I reach school everyday, but I wasn't going to sleep today.

The classroom was noisy as usual, but that's not why I was awake.

(Found you...)

On the first floor of the school, near the staff room.

A powerful torrent of magic power could be felt from there.

For the few who have magical powers in this country, it would be easy to notice them even from a distance.

A magician like this was probably quite the spell caster.

They were probably here for me.

When I teased my classmates previously, normally there would be a notification posted about how I could use magic, but in reality I'm still not widely known by the masses.

In a small country town like this, information spreads quickly.

If there was a mage at the school. The Mage Association, Guild, Mercenaries etc. would all come to scout me into their organizations so I could be of some 'use'.

Although right now I have neither money, nor connections, if someone were to gauge my abilities, I would already have the strength of an average adventurer.

For what one would call a young genius mage, there would be many admirers.

If I joined an organization somewhere, hunting would become much more efficient.

Forget making a livelihood, I'd have enough support to leave this town if I wished.

I'd feel a little bad for mom, but its my life. I'll do what I want with it.

Kukuku While I laughed, still lying down on the desk, the classroom door opened with a rattle, and Claire-sensei entered.

Claire-sensei's face changed while surveying the classroom, eventually stopping her gaze at me.

Of course, that was because the guest she brought is here for me.

"Oh? Zeph is awake for once? That's rare."

To Claire-sensei's irony, nobody laughed.

Well, everyone is scared of me afterall.

This happened with Claire-sensei oblivious to it all.

"Okaaay, everyone give a warm welcome to our new transfer student!"

That was a transfer student? No way, the magic power I felt a little while ago was as powerful... as mine.

While my mind was still unsettled, a girl entered through the door.

The girl had long blonde hair, tied with red ribbons into twin tails that softly swayed left and right.

She wore a fluttery white blouse, and a knee-length skirt, clothes that aren't seen very often in the town of Nanami.

Both the boys and the girls raised their voices. 'Ooooooooohhhhh~~~'

The girl standing next to Claire-sensei smiled gracefully, gave a small laugh, and said: "My name is Milly Reyad, nice to meet you all."

A polite greeting.

A cheerful, bubbly personality.

She who was waving while cheerfully answering other's questions, suddenly made eye contact with me.

Chapter 9: Guild

“There’s a vacant spot next to Zeph, would you like to sit there?”

I’m arbitrarily determined.

The girl who identified herself as Milly walked towards me while her twintails shook.

We made eye contact, and with a triumphant smile, she took her seat next to mine.

“Now that that’s finished let’s start the lesson!”

Everyone who heard Claire-sensei’s voice spread out their textbooks.

Milly seems to participate in the lesson seriously, while I went to asleep.

Immediately after it became rest time, I tried to listen in on Milly’s conversations while staying still.

What the hell are you plotting? My so-called classmate Milly.

She’s a transfer student, but she has this rare aspect to her that draws people to her.

Soon there was a crowd forming beside me.

“Where are you from Milly-chan?”

“Your clothes are so cute! Where’d you get them?”

“Hey, you’re from Berita right? That’s where my mom is from you know~”

As if soothing the noisy children, Milly responded in a dignified voice.

“My father works as a mage in the nearby town, and now that we live so close I was enrolled here to this school.”

“What a joke.”

The air froze.

Crap, I let my real thoughts slip.

“What did I do to be patronized like this, Zeph-kun? Well?”

To Milly that said so with an innocent voice, I responded with turning my upper body away.

“If you want to talk to me, can you not use all these roundabout tricks? If that’s what you want we can just leave now you know?”

“That’s an interesting proposal, but seeing that class is about to start how about we do this later?”

What’s with this girl, to be so good at acting.

I’m bad at acting though, they’re only children so who cares what they think?

For now, I’ll just ride with this.

Ha~tsu “Fine, I’ll wait for you after school.”

I immediately put my head down after, and started imitating a sleeping person’s breathing.

I could hear people’s conversations. ‘The guy sitting next to Milly-chan is dangerous!’ and so on...

I’m dangerous? If I’m dangerous, then this fellow sitting beside me is just as dangerous.

She’s about 12 years old or so? Even if she’s slightly older than me, she’s still just a brat.

Though the magic emanating from beside me isn’t something some random brat would have either.

Although she said her father’s a mage, that probably has no real influence on her identity, she’s quite the ominous brat...

– After school.

Milly and I stand face-face behind the school.

As if testing the waters, classmates who heard about us were staring from afar.

It's a bit regrettable, but it's good I can just brush this off as some kind of lovers quarrel.

"The first time I saw you, you were doing battle at the Decayed Church."

"Oh? ...you look just like any other kid, so why were you hunting there?"

"I wasn't, I was scouting for my guild 'Hunters of the Blue Sky.'"

"I see..."

Hunting grounds for beginners are, for the most part where guilds can ask solo hunters if they want to join them.

A collection of adventurers who come together create a guild, because it's difficult to work alone. Items, broader range of work, and mutual cooperation with guildmates can be easily obtained. Well, guilds have always been that sort of thing.

Though this is only true if you ignore the guilds that just act lazily, apparently there are even guilds that treat their members like troops in a platoon instead of equal leaders. There aren't just good guilds.

Many different things can be born when people gather.

"'Hunters of the Blue Sky', that's its name right? 'Cause I've never heard of them, and the name's meaning is weird."

"Huh?! Th-the name's not weird...! 'Hunters of the Blue Sky' is really cool you know?!"

"Stupid, just because the words sound nice when you put them together doesn't mean that the name is good. I can tell you made it yourself."

'What a jerk'... Milly held her tongue.

She's only a brat, it would take over a hundred years for her to win in a verbal quarrel against me.

"Ha~a... I'm not used to talking like this let's just talk normally. Okay, so what are your intentions? Oh and just call me Zeph, 'cause I'll be calling you Milly from now on."

Kids who pretend to be grown-ups are nothing but cheeky.

Trying to fool me from the start, how stupid.

Invitations themselves are good, but not if they were to some random guild.

“For guild invitations, I have no interest in joining.”

“...really?”

With energetic eyes, Milly stared at me, but I was determined not to enter any guilds that could only be detrimental in the long run.

Of course, that’s because there are always strings attached.

“First of all, joining a guild will cost me my freedom. I hate being tied down. For example if there was some meeting happening I’ll go depending on whether I think it’s too tiring or not.”

“Okay, that’s no problem.”

Oh? My demand got recognized.

Unexpectedly this guild would let me keep my peace of mind, but at least if I join, there’s a high probability of it becoming beneficial for me.

“I want to be able to leave at anytime, if I don’t feel like staying anymore then I can quit when I want.”

“Okay, that’s no problem either.”

There’s no problem here either.

There’s no reason to refuse it anymore.

If I’m going to join a guild why not this one?

Zombie hunting will become less efficient over time, but if I get accustomed to fighting in a party now, it will be much more beneficial for me in the future We could leave the city of Nanami, so that we could find an even better hunting grounds to train.

“Then, can I be the guildmaster of the group?”

“That’s not possible, in ‘Hunters of the Blue Sky’ I’m the guildmaster.”

So that's how it is.

I feel kind of bad, somehow.

Telling her that the name of the guild was stupid, when she probably put a lot of effort into making it.

"For the guildmaster to personally invite me, I'm honoured."

"You're not joking, right?"

"It's not uncommon for people to want someone as excellent as I am."

"As if!"

At the very least its not a lie.

I'll stay for at least a decade or so.

"Though I said that, other people have accepted your invitations right?"

"Umm..."

"Oh well, why don't we get started?"

Guild, joined.

Although I could've joined any of the other big guilds, it would be a lot simpler to train in a small one like 'Hunters of the Blue Sky'.

Gosugosu While I was thinking things like that, Milly was rummaging through her pockets for something.

Hey, what're you doing in front of your guild member, keep your pockets organized.

...Well, even if I say this I'm kind of a slob myself.

"Here we go~! Crystal circle rings~!"

It's a crystal that helps the bonds between comrades grow stronger.

In other words, it's expensive... then I realized something.

-They're only used when creating a guild.

"Hey! No way, are you..."

"On her name, Milly Reyad hereby establishes a new guild! Let this

meeting place connect us through the blue crystal rings!”

Paa~a... and with a bright light, the crystal rings disappeared.

“This is great! I’ll be the guildmaster, while Zeph can be the vice-guildmaster.”

“Ah...”

Far from a weak guild, it was guild that wasn’t even created yet?!

“I’ve been had...”

In response to my glare, Milly stuck her tongue out towards me.

Chapter 10: Milly

"This is our 'Hunters of the Blue Sky' main base!"

I was guided to Milly's so-called home.

It was an apartment area for travelers who needed a temporary home, and Milly's room was our so-called base. ...a sign saying 'Hunters of the Blue Sky guild' was in front of the door.

"Well~ what are your waiting for? Come in, take a seat!"

Even if I wanted to there was nowhere to sit.

I could barely move where I was standing as it is.

The room was completely filled with luggage, all them seemingly untouched.

Leaving out the everyday goods such as clothes, dishes, and scrolls for reading, this was terrible even for me, and I don't like tidying up much.

I guess there was no choice but to sit on the luggage.

"Hey! Use a chair!"

"I would if there was one! Can't you see all this luggage lying around?"

Although I said that, I still got off of the luggage.

While I stood up because there was nowhere else to sit, Milly came back with two cups of coffee to drink.

I have to drink while standing? No.

"First of all we should start with self-introductions."

Her elegant gesture of tilting the coffee made a strange picture. In particular, the mismatch between her and the appearance of the room.

She seems to have received a good education by the looks of it.

"What I've said before in school was more or less correct, the only difference would be that I don't have parents here."

"...isn't that a bit lonely?"

“It’s no big deal, I’m already used to it.”

Kotri The hand that put the cup on top of the luggage looked a little lonely.

“It’s you! In order to make my guild the strongest I need people like you!”

“The strongest... hey.”

“When I first tried to invite people, they all said ‘It’s not good not to act your age...’ and didn’t take me seriously, I guess people just didn’t like the age gap.”

“Well what use could people like that be to us? We’re special you know?”

She laughed a little and smiled, playfully punching me in the shoulder.

“I heard rumors of you! The genius child mage that used magic on the other kids in the city of Nanami.”

Using a spell in the classroom, it seems I was conspicuous enough for my skill to be seen by good eyes.

Fledgling guilds are always scouting, there are many accidental deaths if they aren’t strong enough, so called guilds are called black-guilds. If it was a major guild they could easily scout any amount of adventurers that they wanted.

A new start-up guild such as the ‘Hunters of the Blue Sky’ were a bit unexpected, but it’s not too bad because for the lack of people, we have more freedom in our actions.

I was lucky with one more thing.

Milly Reyad.

How she thinks is a little disappointing, but her potential combat power that I could feel from her magic is no doubt high.

I have high expectations for how she’ll contribute to the party.

We have to use all the cards we’ve been dealt.

“Thanks for entering the guild, Zeph! I was about to cry if you refused.”

Don’t cry.

If it were me, with no family at this age, being able to use magic to that level, I might’ve not been able to make it if my mental age matched my body.

I guess that’s why she’s so happy talking to me like this.

...I feel a little sorry for her.

“Hehehe... By the way, new members are rewarded with a special gift.”

Milly slowly started going through her luggage.

Huh? Where’d she go? Her room’s so messy I lost her.

Can’t she clean up sometime, this is too much.

“There it is! I found it!”

What was taken out was a scroll, guilds often give out magic scrolls to commemorate new mages joining.

But I’m me, I don’t need any magic scrolls because I already know them all.

“That’s not necessary, I probably already know that spell.”

“Are you sure? Surely there’s some spells you haven’t seen before.”

“I’ve already read all the scrolls sold at the Mage Association.”

“He~e~? Fu~u~? Really? Are you sure?”

I didn’t like how she grinned while laughing at me.

The reason I didn’t accept was because I probably already know whatever spell she has there.

Though she is awfully confident, she must be thinking that there’s no way a country bumpkin like me could have read all the spells of the Association.

Time to make a fool out of her.

“...fine, do you want to make a bet? Whether I already know that spell or not.”

“I wonder? The loser has to do any one thing that the winner says, okay?”

“If you insist.”

Milly doesn’t know, but I also have information from the future, I even know all the new spells that are going to be created later on.

“Then let’s start.”

“One, Two... Three!”

We spread open the scroll, following the characters that were written. Wait, this spell...

“...This is so stupid...”

“Fufun ♪ This a new spell for you? You give up?”

“...”

-I know this spell.

This was the spell a certain genius magician brought to the Association, overturning all magic theories that had been developed until then.

Its the spell that made me jump back in time.

“Scout scope...”

Chapter 11: Scroll

"Scout scope...!"

Milly puts on a surprised face in response to my mutterings.

"D-don't tell me, you know it...?"

"That's... no, I didn't know this spell. It's amazing, this spell could be revolutionary."

"Right?! Yes~s, its my win!!"

I'll keep it a secret for now.

This is a spell that isn't known until decades from now.

Perhaps it's a unique spell devised by Milly's family.

So it would be suspicious if I already knew it.

Moreover, it seems like the scroll was made a long time ago.

"It was my dad's. As he was training to become the strongest mage, he became aware of his limits. He always regretted not noticing sooner though."

I know that feeling well.

Magic levels tend to rise slower the higher they get, making it harder to realize his dream.

It can't be helped though, the world isn't made to be fair.

"This is my opportunity though. Then I was born, and seeing my dad as he was I firmly decided I wasn't going to be the same, utilizing the spell he created, Scout scope."

To be able to create such a spell, he must've been a mage with strong intentions.

First you need to create the 'image' of the spell with clear intentions on what you want it to do, then over many years that image 'solidifies', and after practicing it many times the spell forms.

Turning it into the creator's original spell, this is what you call unique magic.

By the way scrolls are just teaching manuals that describe how to use the 'Blank Scrolls' that the creator used, dropped down to a level that anyone can learn.

Naturally the effect of someone who learned the spell through a scroll will be different from the person who created it himself.

(TN: If you're confused, he uses 'Blank Scroll' to show that the creators had no guidelines to follow when creating their unique spells.) It takes a month to create a scroll, but it's still possible to accumulate enough wealth to forego all your money problems if you sell them to the Association.

Unfortunately, because there are many oddball mages out there, most unique spells disappear when their creators die.

That scroll was created for his family, so that the spell wouldn't disappear.

"You had a good father."

"No at all! He always got angry, and never played with me because he was always training, we were only together because of our house!"

"I-I see..."

She sounds angry but she has a happy expression on.

When I noticed it, she laughed a bit embarrassingly.

"Though the fact is because this is a spell that hasn't been publicized, its probably a unique spell meant just for you, you know? Is it really okay for a stranger like me to learn it?"

"What are you saying? You're the deputy leader of 'Hunters of the Blue Sky', there's no way you're a stranger!"

Or so she said.

I had completely forgotten about the guild.

This is probably Milly's first time in the things called 'guilds'.

I'll impart some advice to her.

"Milly, not all guilds have the camaraderie you think they do. It's better if their interests match up, so it'll be easier to recognize your place in the group, it's not uncommon for guilds to have infighting to the point of murder and robbery you know?"

"It's fine! I can tell that you're not that kind of guy, Zeph! I know you won't do anything like that!"

She can laugh so freely because she doesn't know my dark side, I hope she never learns of it.

"...Anyway, that kind of spell isn't something you just show off you know? What if you're opponents learn it?"

"Yeah yeah, thanks for the advice oh great deputy leader-sama, I am eternally grateful."

Stop talking already, STOP! She gestured by raising her hands.

I can't believe a person like this existed until now...

"Other than that, remember our bet from a little while ago? It's my win, you know?"

"Ah, Ah... I wonder what you're talking about, I don't remember anything like that."

I had completely forgotten about that.

It's easy for me to forget things like that now.

My aging hasn't stopped...

Milly, with a mischievous smile plastered on her face, closed in on me.

"The loser will do any one thing the winner wants~ ♪ That's what I remember."

Damn, I guess I have no choice.

-In the twilight of the small room, the pained voice of Milly echoed.

Her face was flushed, her breathing was rough, and her clothes were covered with sweat.

“N~tsu... KUU... ha... ha... there Zeph... over there...!”

“Hey don’t be unreasonable, I’m a bit tired here.”

Her voice is a little worrisome, but this is no problem for me, I let out a small laugh.

“I’m okay... that’s why... all at once... Tsu...!”

“...Okay then, I’m going to start.”

“”One, and...'”

– Zugogogogo.

With the sound of something screeching across the floor, we pushed the bed into the corner of the room.

“Fu~i~ Somehow we were able to clean up all the luggage.”

“Ah, I all sweaty now.”

“Thanks for helping me Zeph!”

The Milly that had asked me to help out with cleaning and organising her luggage, turned from the dusty room looking at the sunset.

The wind that brushed against my cheek felt nice.

“Hey, Milly.”

“Hmm...?”

“About the matter of gathering guild members, we should probably put it on hold for a while. The more people we gather, the more Milly’s problems as leader will increase. Besides, there are not many people our age that’ll measure up to your standards to begin with. “

It’s too early for scout scope to be released into the world.

I want to monopolize this spell if possible.

Nyi... I’ll turn my face forward and continue to advance.

“I wonder how strong we are. My level is low but I’ll probably be more useful than you think. While you’re combat power should also be pretty high. So for now lets just stick to the two of us.

Okay, Milly?”

The answer was no.

In my view there was someone making a ‘Suu Suu’ sound as she slept on the bed.

“...Geez, when people are talking to you, listen.”

With a sigh, to the Milly who was sleeping so comfortably I poked her cheek, checking that she was really asleep, and finally returned home.

Chapter 12: Hoarding

The spells that I need to train aren't only attack spells.

First is "Magic Amplifier".

It a spell that doubles the power and consumption rate of the next spell I cast.

Although most demons can be defeated with a spell's normal power, this is a spell the I have barely used, but I still need to train it.

Second is "Scout scope".

I noticed this when I saw the scroll at Milly's house, it seems to gain more uses if you raise its proficiency.

Firstly, it can show the spell's level.

My Red ball spell is now level 12, by how I planned this out, this will help with making my training more efficient.

More importantly...

I looked over at Milly, and cast Scout scope.

Milly Reyad

Level 25

「Red」Magic level: 22/94

「Blue」Magic level: 32/98

「Green」Magic level: 19/92

「Sky」Magic level: 12/96

「Soul」 Magic level: 15/85

Milly focuses on the Blue system, everything else is balanced out.

Especially her great magic, Blue Gale has grown to a formidable level 39.

It must be her favorite.

The Blue system is balanced in attack, recovery, and auxiliary spells, this is a good system to train in if you're working alone.

Being able to see other's current condition, the levels of the spells you know, learning their identity.

This is seriously dangerous.

To know what spells an enemy mage can cast, is practically putting a death sentence on them, since you can predict their train of thought.

I know this spell was created by itself, because there's no way to counter it.

By leveling up scout scope I can get even more information than what I already know.

There's no privacy here.

Milly has a high talent value.

Yet another genius...

The Scout scope that was brought to the Association in the future was probably a degraded form of this one.

This spell could wreak havoc to the world if it was spread out.

I don't want this spell to be spread around, but whether the scroll is brought to the association or not is Milly's decision.

It's hopeless, isn't it?

I already know that in the future it spreads anyway.

I also chose these two spells because they're some of the only spells that can be trained during class, so recently I've been training Magic Amplification and Scout scope in rotation during class.

Milly turned towards me with a weird look.

Of course, I ignored her.

Oh, the level of scout scope increased.

–after school.

“Zeph, let’s go!”

“Okay!”

After a short conversation, Milly and I left the classroom. Our classmates don’t really care at all, and just stare while whispering.

At first, everyone wanted to talk to Milly, but after the first month most of those people had already lost interest.

I guess the values between a mage and a child were just too different.

After going to the school’s roof, I was able to teleport to a rock I could see in the distance.

It’s more efficient to use teleport from a high place.

You can teleport farther with a better vantage.

Teleport, teleport ….

We arrived at the Decayed Church we trained in earlier.

It’s become our main hunting grounds now.

“Okay, let’s just do our usual thing!”

“Understood. Well see ya.”

At the church we split into opposite directions.

I went and started pulling the zombies in hordes.

The zombies gathered like stupid animals, easy for training.

(TN: I don’t know…

これだけいると何匹か列車から離れるゾンビもいる。)

I held my hand towards the ground, and casted Green wall.

A wave of magic spread from my hands, and a wall made of magic ivy was grew in front of me.

It entangled all the zombie’s feet, who were trying to struggle free.

-Green system spell, Green Wall.

With thick roots from the earth, it’s a spell that can be used on a wide

range of enemies.

While the mass of zombies had their feet tangle, they were herded together like animals, I tried to pull as many zombies together as I could before Green Wall expired.

A little bit to the left of our 'destination' was Milly.

Behind her was something amazing.

There was probably at least a hundred zombies there..

Making full use of Green Wall, although it was a bit difficult I gathered the zombies into one group.

Another hoard could be seen in the distance.

It was Milly's.

I somehow was able to pull the zombies towards Milly, while she pulled her hoard towards me.

After a little while...

As we slowly were able to re-group, once we were finally together again, together with Milly we grouped our zombie hordes into one big mesh and casted our spells.

"White Ball!"

"Blue Gale!"

Half of the hoard was covered in bright flashes of light, while the other was thrown about in a tornado.

"Well two hundred seem to be enough for now."

"Fufu~n, I got to use my spells a lot."

It's good to have rival to compete with.

When I looked at Milly's clothes, maybe it was from a zombie attack, but they were frayed a little.

That's dangerous you know... even if the undead are really slow.

"We need to set up camp quickly, since they get resurrected almost

immediately.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

As the moon started to rise, both Milly and I started meditating.

Though there aren’t many zombies, they have a fast spawn rate. Its because of the zombies that came here, and just rotted away. Giving them the chance to be resurrected fairly early.

I bombarded the zombies with White ball.

After obliterating them all in one swoop, almost immediately another zombie pops out of the ground. Even if I’m only using while ball... there have been many times where my magic power had been significantly reduced, as I passed the snake bone ring to Milly, I started meditating.

Milly also bombarded the zombies that had spawned with white ball the same way I had.

Then... returned the snake bone ring to me.

We take down hordes of zombies in rotation.

I could feel a tremendous rise in experience.

Otto, I gained a level.

The defeated monsters can restore their forms after a certain period of time, by absorbing the magic in the dungeon, reviving themselves.

Utilizing the zombie’s nature, we can hunt them all at once using a technique called ‘Hoarding’.

It’s a very efficient way of hunting, but it’s not recommended for beginners because it will drive the party into a crisis if they don’t have good cooperation.

As long as as magic flows rich here, and demons continue to spawn, attacking humans, this place will always be regarded as a dungeon.

If you take the difficult road, there’s a chance you’ve sentence yourself to a poor fate.

(TN: Help.

ここみたいな穴場じゃないと下手したら因縁をつけられる場合もある。)

After continuing this for an hour.

A zombie with a red cloak had appeared amongst the mass that we slayed with white ball.

“This is bad! The King of Death! Run away!”

“Hey... wait for me, Zeph!”

She said but I still ran before her.

Milly was trailing behind me.

“Phew... that was close...”

“Yeah, hey you... how could you say such things and just leave a girl to fend for herself?”

“Anybody that picks a fight would you would die soon after, so thinking about such things is a waste of time.”

I said while Milly was dripping with complaints.

Our party wouldn’t win even if the both of us fought.

If your preparations are insufficient, you can only die.

It would be better for one of us to escape to lessen the damage.

“But... that’s not what you’re supposed to do...”

While Milly was still throwing complaints at me, I looked at the King of Death that was wandering around in circles, and my teeth started chattering.

After she said so, a mischievous smile floated up on Milly’s face as she thought of something.

I have a bad feeling...

“Hey Zeph, want to try and beat him with just the two of us?”

Chapter 13: Boss Fight

"Huh?"

"What's with that goofy reply? I mean boss hunting you know? Boss hunting."

Way too reckless.

So what she's saying is...

"Sorry, I don't want to die yet."

"I don't want to die either!"

She was angry for some reason.

I might've said that, but I'm still here.

"In the first place, the whole reason we made the guild was so we could hunt bosses! Since we can't defeat them alone, we could defeat them one day with teammates... that's why we built it!"

"We only have two people though..."

"You can't refuse my order Zeph!"

So that's it.

That's how it's going to be.

"Okay! Let's start thinking of some strategies or something! Let's go already!"

Milly's smile was full of self-confidence.

Certainly there are several bosses that you can hunt with only two people.

But that's a gamble, and the King of Death could kill the both of us with a light pat at this level.

Bosses are challenged only by skilled adventurers, moreover only when they're in a party.

"Again, this is too reckless, it's better to just give up."

“Don’t worry! There’s surely a way to win!”

I’m a bit suspicious but...

“I’ll bombard the boss with my magic first, and before the boss notices me, you’ll teleport me away! We recover our magic once we’re out of sight, and then we repeat!”

“I don’t know if I’m going to have to repeat this, but the King of Death has self-recovery abilities. Escaping after firing low-grade magic won’t be sufficient, we need something more powerful.”

“That’s true, well how about this Zeph... We bind the boss’s movement with Green Wall and then we both bombard him with magic from afar.”

“The boss is immune to binding spells.”

Huh~ She sighed, while I continued.

“You’ve probably never fought a boss before. They’re not that easy, I can see us doing boss hunts someday but now is not the time. It’s more efficient to just raise our levels at the moment.”

“Efficiency this, efficiency that, that’s all you ever talk about...”

“Zeph, you idiot~~!!”

Milly teleported away while saying so.

Well, I guess I was a bit shortsighted.

Wait... That direction is...!

“That idiot can’t be...!”

I immediately chased after Milly by teleport.

– Taking the farthest distance possible while still being in the range of her spell, Milly aimed at the King of Death, bombarding it with Red Blaster.

Heat waves emitted from Milly’s palm eradicated the zombies in a single blow, but the attack didn’t end there.

The heat wave continued towards the King of Death.

-Red system intermediate magic, Red Blaster.

The most efficient magic power to attack power conversion spell, it's possible to attack everything in the direction it's casted as long as the spell isn't canceled.

The King of Death didn't even flinch, and started advancing towards Milly. She immediately started retreating after she casted Red Blaster.

"Teleport~tsu!"

She pulled back quite the distance, until she couldn't be noticed by the King of Death anymore.

"Fufun~ ♪ I'm amazing, because I can fight the boss by myself! "

She started meditating, while adjusting her position in relevance to the King of Death. After, she casts Red Blaster at maximum range, and runs away right after...

Bombard the King of Death with magic.

Then teleport away once he notices her.

This... repeated about 3 or 4 times.

In just this short amount of time, Milly's face was already covered with fatigue.

Her breathing was rough, and she was covered in sweat.

The 'fight to the death' barely lasted a few minutes.

Her spirit and tension had died out, she couldn't meditate properly or cast any more spells.

While the King of death didn't seem affected at all.

Continuing this, especially in this state won't do anything.

She knew it, but...

"...I got this far!"

With an unsteady body, she measured the distance.

Her vision was hazy, her feet wobbly.

And...

She made an error with her visual estimation, and got into the King of Death's field of view.

Of course, it immediately turned towards her and began its assault.

Milly noticed her mistake even with her hazy head, and tried to escape with teleport, but because she couldn't concentrate properly, it wasn't invoked successfully.

The King of Death lifted up its bishop's staff, where in the next moment it would surely split Milly's head in two, I flew in with teleport at the last minute, pushed Milly away, and received the bishop's staff with my left arm.

Hishihishi I could feel my arm breaking.

It was slammed towards the ground, and my body was sent flying towards Milly.

My mind went black for a moment, but I can't afford to lose consciousness.

I grasped Milly's arm, and escaped with teleport.

The King of Death who had missed its prey gnashed its teeth together, and started wandering again.

– Milly's house.

"You big idiot!! I said not to fight it! You would've died if I wasn't there to save you!!"

Tears rolled down Milly's face as I scolded her.

Milly apologized while crying the entire trip back to her room.

A little while ago, I activated a magic buff to protect myself.

The chant is long, so you can't use it in combat, it was magic that took 90 percent of the damage from an opponent's attack once.

Yet it was still enough to break my arm.

At least Milly learned the true fear of fighting a boss.

“Now you know why I was so cautious, right?”

“Yeah... I know, I’m sorry... If I didn’t act so selfishly, your arm...”

...it might’ve turned into a trauma.

In the future Milly is going to be a very important human resource.

Fighting boss monsters with me is one of the reasons why she’ll be important, so it’ll be troubling if she gets traumatized.

I need to dispel this as soon as possible, the longer we leave it, the longer it’ll take for her to recover.

Damn... It’s just that troublesome...

Even though I said it wasn’t efficient...

My left arm started aching again.

It’s completely broken now...

Its started to heal after strengthening my self-recovery ability.

But the recovery of bone damage or deep wounds would still take a long time.

This situation is full of things I wouldn’t consider good.

Damn, I’m getting angry...

The King of Death.

“Milly.”

“...yeah?”

Somehow she’s become timid.

Looks like the damage was deeper than I thought.

I guess there’s only one thing we can do.

“Give me seven days. Seven days to prepare and plan, then we defeat the King of Death.”

With a blank look Milly just stared at me, so I grabbed her shoulder and

flashed a smile.

"We'll defeat it with only two people."

Chapter 14: Stalls

—- The Commercial City Berita

It was one of the country's leading trade cities, various products are shipped all over the country through its huge harbor.

Its also the closest big city to Nanami.

Even if I say that it's close, it still takes over an hour full of breaks and the use of the teleport spell.

Today, Milly and I woke up early to get here.

Milly is such a kid sometimes, she wouldn't open the door to her room, even when I called out to her so I had to use a spell to unlock it.

It's a unique spell taught to support the lives of magician thieves, and sure enough, it was used for something that only a thief would do.

A thief was supposed to use the scroll for himself, but I tore the scroll up after I learned it.

As I told Milly about what she sounds like when she's asleep, she got angry while her face turned bright red.

It wasn't so bad though.

Huge crowds of people walked through the roads of the city.

I'm having a hard time just walking.

Milly also lost sight of me pretty quickly and started to go in the wrong direction.

I always have to look after her.

Sighing, I grabbed Milly's hand and pulled.

"L-let go! It's too embarrassing!"

"Don't even. You might have the time to get lost, but I don't."

She got pushed again as I said so.

Slowly accepting the idea, she lightly gripped my hand.

We came to this city to sell the extra accessories that I received as thanks from the caravan, but also to prepare ourselves for the boss fight.

It's a big city.

Selling the items is going to take quite a while.

It's not very efficient.

"What's this? Well if it isn't Milly-chan and Zeph-kun."

As we turned towards the voice, we saw that it was Claire-sensei holding a large shopping bag to her chest.

There was a big loaf of bread sticking out of it.

Apparently, she was food shopping.

Come to think of it, I vaguely remember somebody saying that sensei lives around here during the holidays.

"Could this be a date? How nice~"

"Y-you're mistaken! We're only shopping together because he can't go by himself right now... You see! Look, Zeph's arm is broken!"

"Are you sure~? Recently, haven't the two of you gotten quite close? How suspicious~"

This is bad, they've been talking too long...

Claire-sensei has completely entered into her meddling mode.

"Sorry sensei, we need to hurry because we're a little..."

"Did you come with just the two of you? That's not good you know, you need an adult with you, no matter what you say..."

I knew Claire-sensei wouldn't get lost, but soon after we started walking she grabbed my hand that wasn't held by Milly, and trailed slightly behind us.

The strength of Milly's grip got a bit stronger than it was a moment ago.

Only holding on when we're near the end...

Hey stop it idiot, don't think about these things.

"He~y, wouldn't our purpose for coming here be harder to achieve if Claire-sensei is with us?"

We were talking with our voices hushed.

Honestly I agree, but can you stop gripping my hand like that.

"In the crowd, let's quietly escape."

"Alright, alright."

So we agreed while shaking off Claire-sensei's hand, disappearing into the crowd.

Since sensei had a big shopping bag, it would be hard for her to chase us.

"Sorry sensei~♪"

Milly stuck out her tongue while saying so.

Hey hey, stop it with the provocation.

Milly took my hand, and we disappeared into the crowd.

"Oh my, for the two of them to elope together, it's good to be young."

Fu~u, we finally got away from Claire-sensei, I could feel myself laughing a bit.

...Though I think we might've caused some kind of misunderstanding.

After we escaped from Claire-sensei, we browsed the merchants in search of rare items, and eventually ended up in Stall Square.

Both merchants and adventurers tried to sell stuff to me with glistening eyes.

What a formidable place to arrive in.

Milly was wondering about something, and looked restlessly around while turning.

You'll get lost with that kind of attitude you know?

I pulled Milly's hand and started walking towards our destination again, she followed with a kind of meandering feeling.

This feels like I'm walking a dog.

Soon after we entered the crossroads, and underneath the trees.

There sat the place where the future me always put up shop.

"Is this your first time coming here?"

"Yeah, what for?"

"Well, look over there."

We turned towards a certain signboard and stand.

There, on a sign that looked like it was just drawn up yesterday, were the name and sale prices of the items I received as a thank you gift from the caravan merchants.

"This is Stall Square. Anyone can make a store here, as long as they have a product and a price for it. We're going to try and sell these to people on the street now."

"...For something so annoying..."

"Hey, read the mood."

...Damn, she immediately fell asleep.

I tried to make things look interesting, but even if it wasn't that doesn't mean you can just fall asleep.

I decided to just read a book while waiting for customers to come.

.....

.....

.....

No sales.

Customers would sometimes come to look at the wares, without buying anything and then leaving.

Am I that bad at selling?

There could also be a problem with our methods.

Or maybe we're selling them at a bad price...

"Are you here with your dad? Little fella~"

As I looked towards the voice, minus the cart with a large canopy, was a tall girl.

With long blue hair that reached her back, and a white shirt that didn't completely hide her chest.

Furthermore, she wore short hot pants that generously exposed her long legs, her overall skin colour was a nice tone, and her generous amount of clothes attracted the gaze of many of the people walking down the street.

Her cart was painted with a floral pattern, and a large amount of rare items could be seen tidily displayed, some of them were quite expensive.

The girl stopped her cart, sat in front of me, and started talking.

"But~ I wonder who investigated these? Their market price isn't this much."

Market price...?!

Damn it! My prices were based off of what I knew decades later from now, there's no way these are the prices that these would sell for in this era!

"There's a good variety though, would you mind telling me where you got this?"

I smiled, the girl with a friendly smile had a sharp gaze behind it, I didn't miss it.

Chapter 15: Time Square

"I have weapons, but I want to MAKE weapons. Enough to build my own weapon shop, but I don't have enough money for it you see, so I'm training as a merchant by helping my dad sell his weapons for now. Oh, my name's Lydia by the way."

"I see... market price..."

As I was in deep thought Lydia started talking again.

"Ugh, I don't even know the market price. How could I sell these..."

"I know them. Reasonable prices for your items that is."

Really?! I showed Lydia a surprised face.

"This isn't the first time I've seen these. These are the equivalent to an adventurer's scraps."

I knew they weren't uncommon but...

"Oh, but isn't it amazing? Having all these at your age."

This woman named Lydia may be talking friendly, but she's picked me out as a target...

She's probably going to buy my items for cheap since I don't know the market price.

But I'm out of time.

This might not be too bad of an ordeal if at I can get some profit, even if only a little.

"Lydia, I don't like it when things are too roundabout, so I don't mind skipping the pleasantries. That said, I need a large quantity of magic recovery items, and I want them in a magic bag. In exchange I have some high-grade mediums needed for casting 'Soul' magic, how's that sound?

Magic bags are small bags that were enchanted with a spell, so they can hold a large number of items despite their size.

It's one of the Mage Associations greatest inventions, the storage space

inside can grow in accordance with its owner's magic power.

By its nature, it's impossible for anyone to only own one of these.

Even if the user's magic lines haven't been opened and they have no magic power, a certain amount of space can still be secured, so for an adventurer it's a must have item.

"Ahhaha, you're good for a kid. You say some interesting things you know~"

"I'm in a hurry."

"Hey, that's poor negotiating. Wouldn't you feel bad if I said something like that?"

"I can say it because I'm a kid."

"Ahhaha, it's rare finding someone as honest as you."

As she said so Lydia stood up and started rummaging through her cart. Gosogoso "I have a bag with a small space, but it holds a decent amount of magic recovery items."

Hmm... I pondered it for a second, then I turned towards Milly who was making a funny expression as she slept.

I need to get as much as possible before I'm defeated.

"That ring and a magic bag full of recovery items, I'll give you a set for 50 mediums."

That ring has a enchant that increases the wearer's physical strength.

It's expensive, but for the bag and recovery items, it's not a bad exchange for 50 mediums a set.

The mediums aren't needed for someone with my magic power.

"That sounds good."

"Negotiations complete."

The bags and the recovery items were removed from the cart, after taking out the mediums, I packed 50 of them into a bag and handed it

back to her.

Yup, they're there.

Lydia also passed the ring over to me.

"Thanks, you saved me."

"You know you were just an easy target right?"

"I didn't mind it though."

While grinning, Lydia started laughing in response to my answer.

She made a face that had a poisonous feeling to it, and reached out for a handshake.

"Same here, that was a good negotiation. Here's my business card, because it says the location of my dad's weapon shop, come over to visit sometime."

"Yeah, okay."

I took her hand as I said so.

While pulling her cart with a rattle, Lydia left.

There's no reason to pull a cart if you could just put everything in a magic bag.

I often wonder why items are handled like so.

Well soon, we'll be going out of business.

I'll try to sell the rest of the accessories with the next one.

When I shook Milly to wake her up, she made a grumpy face while she rubbed her eyes.

Just like this morning, she's probably really bad at waking up.

In order to understand the market better,we walked around for a bit, and compared to the prices of the future overall everything was pretty much cheaper.

Just like the previous negotiation, there were a lot of people like Lydia who were willing to trade. Even though I suffered a little loss I didn't feel

bad, in fact the people who I made deals with felt bad instead.

They showed me the locations of their stores, maybe with a little intent of advertising though.

It's probably a good time to leave the mall now.

After I fulfilled all my goals for the day, it was already evening.

I need to be home before it gets dark.

"Let's go home Milly."

When I looked back and said so, her eyes were glued to a shop window displaying some dolls.

Really, she's still a kid...

Sighing, I pulled Milly's hand, and we walked outside the city.

This time we'll go at our own paces, since Milly can cast teleport on her own now that she's awake...

-On our way back, only a little bit away from Nanami.

A Bluzel was reflected in my field of view.

Hmm, I want to try something...

When I stopped teleporting Milly also stopped.

"What's wrong Zeph?"

"I want to experiment with something, you can head back first."

"I'm going to feel anxious if you say something like that, I want to see too!"

"Have it your way."

When I said experiment, I meant I want to experiment how much magic power would be needed with the King of Death as the opponent.

For instance, if you remember my time travel spell 'Time Leap', I made many experiments testing how much magic power it would need from me.

No, it's more like time regression rather than travel.

Time Leap itself, even when it wasn't complete it took all the magic power of a fully trained me to use, consuming an enormous amount.

My suspicion is whether the me of now can use it or not, if I can it'll dramatically increase our success rate in boss-hunting.

I meditated until my magic made a full recovery, and then targeted the Bluezel.

Time Square!

And...

"" Red Blaster!'"

I penetrated the Bluezel with a light extending from my hand, but it didn't end there...

The lines multiplied, all of them aiming towards the Bluezel, penetrating it, extinguishing it.

The shine from the lines died off as the Bluezel disappeared, leaving a chill in front of my hand, the air became cold too.

All that was remaining was a thread of smoke.

"That... That was amazing! Zeph! What is that?! How did you do that?!"

"..."

"To think you were hiding this kind of spell, why haven't you ever used it before?!"

"..."

"...Zeph?"

Flump.

My magic had been used to its limits, and I grandly fell.

"Zeph!?"

Milly came running to the fallen me.

...my consciousness gradually became distant.

Time Square was a spell that I devised as an old man to use.

Even then I could quite feel the magic consumption of it.

Unexpectedly, I seem to have grown a bit, being able to use it now.

Milly carried me the rest of the way home from there.

Chapter 16: Experiment

-I was on a bed before I even noticed.

You see on our way back to town, I fell in a bad way after experimenting with my Time Square spell.

Milly carried me back to my house.

I'm very grateful.

When I finally got out of bed, I was chastised by mom "You can't do that you know, you caused so much trouble for Milly-chan."

I'm very grateful... ugh...

As I ate the meal mom prepared, I remembered to check my progress with scout scope.

Zeph Einstein

Level 22

「Red」Magic Level: 16/62

「Blue」Magic Level: 14/87

「Green」Magic Level: 19/99

「Sky」Magic Level: 14/89

「Soul」 Magic Level: 19/97

Magic Power: 582/602

Wow, magic power.

It's a new spec.

As Scout Scope's level increases, I'll be able to see a lot more things.

My magic power is 20 away from its max capacity.

That's probably from casting Scout Scope.

With this I'll be able to measure how much magic power my spells use.

Today's a school holiday, so I planned to go and train with Milly

starting this morning.

I'll try a bunch of experiments during that time.

With my stomach full, I could hear Milly's voice from outside while I was drinking water.

"Ze~ph~k~un~!"

"I'll be there in a bit!"

I answered back with a yell, washed my dishes, and ran out of the house after changing clothes.

I walked with Milly until we got out of town.

"What're we doing today?"

"I'm doing a continuation of yesterday's experiment. I wanted to try out some things."

"Eh~ That's okay, but try not to pass out this time alright~♪"

Nihihi Milly laughed at me, and I couldn't say anything in my defense.

She carried me to my house yesterday, so I'll let her feel a bit bossy for now.

As I left the Milly that happily trailed behind, I found a Bluezel.

...there it is.

Well~ let's try it out, no?

-My Unique Spell Time Square, on this guy.

When activating Time Square, other than your own, it's possible to stop all of time.

It's not possible to move your body when time is stopped, but you can cast more spells there in between.

You can use this time to activate spells that would require a long cast time instantly, it's also possible to cast multiple spells at the same time during the duration that time is stopped.

That said... spells require more magic power than what they usually

need during the time stop.

Though magic triggered in duplex is far more powerful than casting the same spell twice in a row.

Looking at the Bluezel, the flow of time had stopped with the cast of Time Square.

I stopped time after casting Red Ball, casted Red Ball again. After triggering it two fireballs were shot at once, defeating the Bluezel in an instant.

“For now, I’ll call this spell Red Ball-Double.”

“Oh~”

pachipachi Milly’s hand was making a crackling sound.

I’m checking things out while sitting on a rock.

When I casted Scout Scope, my magic power had decreased about a third its maximum value.

As I got off the rock to look for another target, Milly started attaching herself to me.

...I wonder why.

After using numerous Bluezels and practice dummies for my experiments, I was able to roughly determine the magic power consumption of Time Square combined with other spells.

During time stop the consumption of magic power almost doubles, but the spells power also increases.

Usually it takes four Red Balls to defeat a Bluezel, but it dies with one Red Ball-Double.

However, I can’t use intermediate or higher ranked spells because it takes so much magic power that I can barely cast them with -Double.

At least the power is suitable.

“It’s a shame... but I don’t think I’ll be able to use Time Square when we’re boss hunting.”

“Ku~u... Ku~u...”

Milly fell asleep.

How can she sleep in such a noisy place?

By the way a little while ago, I was looking for Bluezels and when I turned around they were roaming around Milly.

Time Square, a spell I learned by chance when I created Time Leap.

As an old man I never go the chance to use it in combat.

It may have a wide variety of uses, and some of them may be interesting...

As I thought of that, suddenly I remembered the spell I’ve been practicing lately.

-Magic Amplifier, it’s a spell that doubles the power of the next one.

This spell consumes zero magic power, instead the consumption of the next spell casted is doubled.

Using Time Square and a spell has the same power increase as using magic amplifier twice in a row.

Of course, I feel like using it takes the same magic power as using Time Square one time.

Let’s try this out on a Bluezel.

If my idea is correct...

The Fireball crashes into the Bluezel, defeating it in a single blow.

O~otsu, if using Magic Amplifier doubles the spell’s power, then using it twice makes it four-times as strong?

Red Ball’s magic consumption is also four-times its usual amount.

Hmm, this could...

This could be used.

-Red system Great Magic: Red Zero

Chapter 17: The King of Death (Part 1)

-The next day, at the Decayed Church Milly and I had come back.

Of course, our goal was to hunt The King of Death.

Milly's legs were trembling a little.

Milly Reyad

Level 27

「Red」Magic level: 23/94

「Blue」Magic level: 32/98

「Green」Magic level: 19/92

「Sky」Magic level: 12/96

「Soul」 Magic level: 17/85

Magic Power: 985/985

In pure magic power she's stronger than me, but both her physical and mental states are unstable.

It might not show on scout scope, but Milly is starting to show symptoms of fear and anxiety that might affect her magic consumption rate.

An unsettled heart interferes with the magic lines that naturally spread throughout one's body, inhibiting one's flow of magic.

It's impossible for Milly to be the attacker as she is now.

Here's the plan, I'll be the front line, while you're support."

"U-understood...!"

I slapped Milly's back because she replied sheepishly.

"Hyaa!?"

"You're awfully pale you know, that's not how our great guildmaster should be right?"

For young people, it's easy for their minds to fluctuate between good and bad mindsets.

At such a time, it's my job to support her.

"Let's see, I believe our guild name was... 'The Pegasus's White Wings' right?"

"..."

Only silence followed.

Man, did I screw up?

I wonder if she didn't understand my joke.

"Zeph, we're the 'Hunters of the Blue Sky' so..."

Apparently she took it seriously.

She looked into my eyes.

Hey hey, don't get angry at me.

Milly who was sitting beside me, hit my back.

"Let's go."

She walked away while saying so, hey say that before you get up, I'm a man so I have to take the lead.

"...anks."

"Did you say something?"

"..?! Nothing!"

Milly flew away with teleport while saying so.

I could feel myself grinning.

My joke might've not gone as I intended, but it's not a bad result.

"I'll go too...!"

After lightly slapping my cheeks with my hands, I started teleporting in the opposite direction from Milly.

Stage one, Search Operation.

There's also the chance that the King of Death had already been defeated by someone, since we're probably not the first people to ever come here.

By doing so we'll have a fresh start.

Teleport, teleport, teleport....

Woah, it's a hoard of zombies.

The hoard disappeared after I started casting White Ball.

There's no King of Death though.

It's only a matter of time.

I continued to look around while teleporting.

Teleport, teleport, teleport ....

(There it is!)

Milly's voice resounded in my head.

Guild members that have a strong bond and are connected by the power of the circle crystal rings, are able to communicate with with each other through telepathy.

(Current position is in Dungeon Area '9', in the middle of the cemetery!) (Understood, I'm heading there now.) I teleported to the location told me about as soon as I could.

"Milly."

"You're so slow!"

In the center of a zombie hoard, wearing a crown and a red cloak, was the King of Death, calmly walking as if he was going through a park.

He was at a distance that we could barely see him from this location.

Our first worry though, isn't about the distance.

Milly is still traumatized.

I can't do anything about that now though.

Because of the magic used a little while ago and because of teleport, I started meditating.

As I concentrated my mind, my magic power was honed in an instant.

The torrent of magic power around me boasts the strength of a veteran.

With a sharp feeling on her skin, Milly was taking deep breaths to calm herself.

Kukuku, she should be proud.

It's been awhile since the boss fight, but her sense of urgency isn't too bad.

"If our preparations are all done, let's go!"

"U-understood."

I casted Time Square first, then I used Magic Amplifier twice during the time stop, and...

"Oh God of Red Magic, creator of the system that spreads knowledge and truth across the land, lend me your strength! Destroy my enemy with your spinning blades!"

"Red Zero!"

My strongest Red system Great Magic 'Red Zero'.

By consuming all my magic power, it's a great magic of the 'Red' system that's shot at maximum power.

Its power increases according to the maximum amount of magical power the user has, its consumption rate is terrible, but its the spell with the most power in one attack.

To erase the disadvantage of 'increasing the consumption of magic' that Magic Amplifier produces, the compatibility between it and 'Red Zero' need to be the best.

With the Magic Amplifier-double, the crimson blade that had been amplified fourfold (^4) was shot out of my hands.

Piercing the King of Death, it burned its body, making it groan out in

pain.

It seems that the Great Magic of the Red system could be its weakness indeed.

But—

Smashing the blade of fire, the King of Death charged over to assault me.

“Milly!”

“I know!”

Milly grabbed my hand, and teleported away from the King of death a short distance away.

Disappearing from its field of view at the last second, the King of Death still pursued us as we dodged through teleport.

After I pulled it, Milly would continue distance us with teleport.

Meanwhile I noisily drank magic recovery potions taken from the bag, while meditating.

...I can feel my magic power recovering!

The recovery rate of a magic recovery potion seems to be about 100, this was verified before the battle with Scout Scope.

So I put the magic recovery drink into one large bottle, so that I could almost completely recover with one take.

I call it Magic recovery potion(large).

“Soon..! We’ve shaved away 15000!”

Milly seems to have used Scout Scope on the King of Death.

We tried experimenting, where ‘What happens if you use Scout Scope on a monster’, and its magic power was shown normally.

Their magic power decreases when we attack them, and they disappear when that value becomes zero.

“The King of Death’s Magic power is equal to 78000... so we need six

more shots, Zeph!”

The King of Death has a self-recovery ability, but it isn’t recovered when a large numeric value decreases.

As long as we keep up this pressure and without letting it recover, we can do this!

We have the experience from our last boss battle.

So while leaving the movement to Milly, we escaped through teleport again, and if she ever got the chance, she would check the enemy’s condition through Scout Scope.

This is called “Escape Shot” used when fighting opponents with high attack power, it’s not a tactic used by mages often.

Its magic power efficiency isn’t very good, but you can even beat mighty enemies with it if you don’t miss.

“...it’s restored. Let’s take our distance and shoot again.”

“Understood♪”

Milly’s tone changed? It’s good that she’s back to normal.

Activating Time Square, casting Magic Amplifier twice, starting chant for Red Zero.

“Red Zero!!”

This is the second time I casted Red Zero.

The red blade extended from my hands and pierced the King of Death yet again.

Flames blew throughout its body, its arms fell, its cloak burnt into a thousand pieces, and yet without reducing its speed at all, it still chased after us.

Milly cowered looking into its red eyes, so I grabbed her shoulder, turned her towards me, and nodded.

“...I’m okay!”

Milly said so as if to remind herself, and brushed her cheek.

Chapter 18: The King of Death (Part 2)

Red Zero had just penetrated the King of Death for the fourth time.

“Just... Three more shots...!”

“I can’t Milly... let me rest for a bit.”

“Ha~a...! Ha~a...! U-understood...”

Teleporting away from the King of Death, we took a little rest.

Milly’s breathing was rough.

Checking Milly’s status with scout scope, her magic power had dropped to 100.

After teleporting non-stop while using scout scope, of course her magic power would’ve been depleted.

Teleport uses about 20 magic power, scout scope is about the same (in my case at least).

But Milly’s mental state is unstable.

Because of that her magic consumption rate has probably increased.

“Drink.”

I passed over a magic recovery potion(large) to Milly as I said so.

It was the first time she had to drink one of these so she replied yes, and took a sip.

“Zeph, this is really bitter...”

“Endure it and drink.”

She watched my reaction as we took turns drinking it.

Apparently, it’s quite bitter for children.

Each time she drank, a bit spilled from her mouth down her neck.

Half of it is spilling out, what a waste...

I’m not complaining though.

The King of Death's self-recovery ability is going to activate soon.

My magic power has already made a complete recovery.

After checking Milly's status with scout scope, her magic power has only recovered to about half its maximum value.

"Do you need another drink?"

"...I'm fine."

After scrubbing her cheek, she started meditating.

She's still a kid.

You should have started preparing before me.

Activate Time Square, casting Magic Amplifier twice.

Now I just need to shoot Red Zero.

"Okay."

Or maybe I should be saying I'm about 70 percent done with my preparations.

I can't say is enough to shoot, but I'd be troubled if the King of Death started using its self-recovery ability.

"Oh God of Red Magic, creator of the system that spreads knowledge and truth across the land..."

While chanting, I moved to the maximum range that I could still use Red Zero and hit.

Milly walked up behind me.

Let's go, I signaled Milly with my eyes, and nodded.

"Red Zero!"

The fifth shot of Red Zero.

As the blades broke through the King of Death.

A light was released from its eye sockets.

Its crown cracked and fell off, revealing a third eye socket on its

forehead. It's red cape turned tar black, and it's bishop's staff cracked into two, revealing a black blade that came in an arc.

Its appearance was like that of the Grim Reaper, holding the bishop's staff that turned into a scythe with both hands.

"It's gone into berserk mode. I said this before the battle, but when we fight a boss, after we damage it to some extent, this activates. Its combat power should triple in this form. No matter what, make sure it does not hit you."

"Y-yeah..."

This is bad, is she relapsing?

"It'll be okay, as long as it doesn't touch us. Our safety was never guaranteed, yet we still got this far. We won't die today... probably."

I flashed a grin towards Milly to ease her fear, she gave a very subtle response.

Hey Milly, what's with that half-hearted laugh?

Katata After the King of Death finished its makeover, it advanced towards us...

I was meditating during our conversation, but I still haven't fully recovered yet.

"It's here!"

Faster than it was before, the King of Death kicked the earth when I rushed towards it.

Milly put up her guard, and black lights were released from the King of Death's scythe when he swung.

The light bullets were just like Black Ball, but with the power of a boss, it had a strength to be reckoned with.

It was even shot towards me, it's a bit regretful but it's probably going to hit.

– Well, it did hit but...

With my hand held up, I summoned a White Wall.

Where the White Wall was hit, the boss's Black Balls were eliminated.

Spells of the Wall type have a completely different effect depending on which system it was casted from. White Walls have the effect of being able to stop all types of magic as long as it's blocking a primary spell.

However, the King of Death didn't care about that at all, and swung down its scythe to my left, like a Grim Reaper.

At that moment, Milly took us a distance five times further than before, but it wasn't because she was scared.

When the King of Death enters berserk mode, its attack range increases.

This is the distance just barely inside it.

Milly is perfectly calm.

I noisily continued drinking the magic power potion(large), and started meditating.

"It's just over 21000!"

It looks like it was able to recover a bit.

The power of a fully strengthened Red Zero does about 15000.

I still need to make two more shots.

While Milly took me to escape, if the King of Death shot Black Balls at us, I stopped it with White Wall.

Meanwhile, my magic power recovery rate had fallen.

– With my current magic power, I could say I'm about at 80 percent full.

The next Red Zero doesn't need to be shot at full power.

The enemy is quite exhausted already.

Here? Let's take the shot.

I sent an eye signal to Milly, then we retreated to make some distance.

Activating Time Square... abbreviating the chant.

“Red Zero!!”

The sixth shot.

The red blades pierced its throat, making the King of Death suffer in agony.

“Its at 10000...!”

Milly muttered.

Although it only fell that much, I’ll make sure the next one is shot at full power.

While drinking magic recovery potions, I started meditating.

I passed some potions to Milly to make sure the King of Death didn’t come in while we couldn’t teleport, she gave me an unpleasant look.

What a troublesome person...

“Milly if you don’t drink it, you might not have enough magic power once we’re in an emergency, I want to avoid situations like that because we’ll definitely die. I know it’s hard to adjust the distance while teleporting...”

I said so because I knew it would both provoke her and motivate her.

“There’s no way this is difficult!”

She took the bait.

Wrestling the bottle from me, she started chugging it all down. Puhaa~

She had tears in her eyes.

...I can’t help but feel a little bad about how soft Milly is.

Black Balls came flying towards us and were stopped by my White Wall. As the scythe came down Milly grabbed my hand and used teleport.

The distance and positioning from the King of Death that lost sight of us was perfect.

Milly turned towards me with a face that seemed to say ‘How is it?’, but

I'll let her vent a little.

– Nevertheless, now it's my turn.

Activating Time Square, casting Magic Amplifier twice during the time stop and....

"Oh God of Red Magic, creator of the system that spreads knowledge and truth across the land, lend me your strength! Destroy my enemy with your spinning blades!"

"Red Zero!!"

A full powered Red Zero.

The blades extended towards the King of Death and penetrated its body, grilling and burning everything.

While looking at the King of Death that stopped moving and started turning into sand, Milly asked me: "We... we won...?"

"Yeah, it's our win."

At the same time the King of Death completely disappeared, I could feel a force growing inside my body.

Apparently I leveled up.

Milly probably did too.

"We did it! Ahahahahahahahahahah...!"

Chapter 19: Return

"We did it~! We did it~! We did it~!"

Milly jumped onto me, bouncing up and down.

I could see both nervousness and joy inside her eyes.

Well I'll just pat her head for now, and as I did so the light in her eyes seemed to settle down a little.

I remember when I first defeated a boss as part of an expedition group, we drank the night away to celebrate.

How Milly feels right now is understandable.

"Well then..."

I escaped from Milly's embrace and walked over the place where the King of Death just disappeared, an object was gleaming in its remains.

It was a ring.

"A snake bone ring, huh?"

A boss has a decent drop rate for rare items, the effect for those items can't be compared to a normal monster's drops.

The price of those items too.

The snake bone ring has nearly twice the value of the ring I got from Lydia.

Lucky me.

"Woah! A snake bone ring!"

Looking at the snake bone ring I picked up, Milly let out a happy voice.

"What're you going to do with it?"

"I'll sell it. I don't need two of the same thing."

I took out my magic bag and as I was about to put the ring inside, Milly grasped my hand with both of hers.

"I-I want it!"

I thought she'd say that.

She's been looking at it with sparkling eyes since a little while ago.

"Okay, but this thing could get us a lot of money you know?"

"Then, I'll give you this in exchange~!"

Milly held out a short cane topped with a blue crystal.

– It's a quartz rod.

A cane that can amplify the effect of the Blue system magic is bound to have a high price.

Most likely three times the price of the snake bone ring.

"Milly, do you know how much this is worth?"

"O-Of course I do!"

Milly said so with a red face, and pushed the crystal rod into my chest.

Whatever, do what you want.

Oh what a cute brat you are.

Maybe she was a little scared or something, but her eyes were a little wet.

Letting out a sigh, I reached out and grabbed her hand.

She put on a puzzled face, then her eyes opened wide and her mouth went Pa~a~tsu.

I placed the snake bone ring on her finger, and her expression turned joyful all of a sudden. She started staring at me from a whole bunch of different angles.

I wonder why she's so happy.

"I guess putting on matching equipment does feel nice, though its performance is somewhat basic."

"~ ♪"

She's not listening...

Meh, whatever.

I feel like an old man giving a new toy to his grandchild.

I never had children let alone grandchildren, but this doesn't feel so bad.

I went ahead and patted her head, while laughing with a scruffy face. Ehehe —-Now lets see our profit for the day.

We used nine magic recovery potions(large). Each one created by using five magic recovery potions, each worth 1000 rupees, for a total of 45000 rupees...

There's only one left now... well I guess I did well for fighting something like that at this level.

Using this would've meant we'd be out of options.

While the snake bone ring was given to Milly, so our income is 0 rupees...

For a total of -45000 rupees.

The King of Death was a monster that showed up in the lower floors of a dungeon that I captured a long time ago.

We could've beaten him easily if we had a third person.

Without the pressure of having to escape all the time, beating the boss wouldn't have even broken a sweat.

(TN: Help...

死者の王は、ワシが大昔に著書した対ボス攻略本では下位に属する。)

Time Square seems to have more applications than I thought it would.

The strength of Red Zero^4 is dangerous.

When fired at this level, I can beat lower bosses with a level of 90 in one attack.

Well, I also need to calculate attribute compatibility, magic power cost, and so forth, but whatever.

I'm looking forward to using this in the future.

As I imagined my strength after I fully trained myself, I laughed eerily.

Milly who was staring at her snake bone ring was also laughing with a smile.

The creepy laugh of two children echoed throughout the cemetery.

If other people looked at us right now, they would've been confused at the strange sight.

After doing so for quite a while, we walked out of the Decayed Church.

-On the way back

Since we weren't in the mood to teleport back, we walked side by side while talking about the battle.

"That was amazing! To be specific your spell's amazing! If that won't make you invincible what will?"

"If you say so... It's a good spell but it causes severe magic power exhaustion so it can't be used much."

Kukuku I laughed while Milly punched me in the shoulder.

"Time Square... right? That spell, can't I use it too?"

I thought she'd ask this sometime...

"Unfortunately Time Square can't be used by anyone other than me... Milly, Time Square is a unique spell that can stop time in the interval of what feels like a fraction of a second. Unique magic can be passed on through a scroll, but it'll be weaker, and although you'd be able to use it, it'd probably be weakened to the point where nothing happens even when you practice it."

I don't have enough free time to make a scroll anyway.

"What, so I have no choice but to develop my own Time Square?"

"Unique spells are created in the image of the person who devised it, our different 'tastes' are very important in making them. Time Square was a unique spell developed by me who has a strong obsession about time.

Most likely your personality isn't compatible with it in the first place, so it'd be impossible for you to develop. You should remember this for the future."

Hopefully she understands this.

Milly nodded for me to continue.

"To create unique spells, the compatibility with the person becomes necessary for the years you develop it. Rather than trying to imitate others, it'd be better to try to create something that you really want. It's a bit too early for you to create your own unique spell. You should do so after you grow a bit more."

I said so as I patted Milly's head.

"Mu~~ How come you always treat me like a child? Just how old are you Zeph?"

In response to Milly's question, my hand stopped moving.

I talked too much in a tone I shouldn't have used.

"Aren't I the same age as you? We're what, 13 years old? If you started developing your unique spell a few years ago... what time did you start practicing magic?"

"...Anyways, I need to get back home soon or else mom will be worried..."

I ran away from Milly while saying so.

"Aah~! Hey~! Wait for me!"

I could hear Milly's loud voice from behind me as she teleported onto my back.

While I fended off her hands, I activated teleport.

After saying some unnecessary things, I ended up being chased until we got back to Nanami.

Well, at least Milly seems to be back to her old self.

She had a bright face again.

Right now, our current goal is to earn some gold.

I want to buy some expensive equipment if there's any.

There's also our unlimited need of recovery potions.

Fortunately I still have some accessories from the caravan.

I don't necessarily have to make another stall.

There was that blacksmith girl... Lydia? I could feel that she was an excellent merchant.

Give and take.

She both buys and sells.

It wouldn't be bad to see her again.

I wonder when I should go back to the commercial city Berita.

As I was thinking about such things I arrived back at Nanami.

Before I'm found by Milly, I teleported back to my house.

I'm sure she won't chase me this far.

"I'm home."

"Oh welcome back Zeph, Milly-chan."

Wait, did she just say... Milly-chan...?

I turned around to see Milly, who had a face that seemed to say 'I won!'.

"Would you like to have dinner with us?"

"Sure~! Thanks for the meal~!"

Hey stop that idiot!

We had an early dinner for three people. Meanwhile, the me who had just been barraged with questions until late at night, just had someone storm into my room without permission and...

Chapter 20: Lydia

– A week after the fight with the King of Death.

On a daily basis Milly and I continue to hunt at the Decayed Church.

We scraped through the hunting grounds, single-mindedly shooting the White Ball spell.

The boss is a powerful force, so it takes a month for it to revive itself.

So for a while we can hunt without the fear of that nuisance, ...However.

“Hey Zeph~ I’m tired of this already~”

Milly seems to think our hunting is boring.

It’s probably because all we do is shoot White Ball while standing around.

“I don’t want to raise my level here anymore, so let’s go find another hunting ground okay?”

Certainly, another hunting ground may be more efficient than the present one, but here we can hunt zombies with no fear of the King of Death, and the lack of tension makes it very easy to fall asleep.

Milly will probably fall asleep soon if I leave her alone, and that’ll be boring.

After I reached level 25, my level doesn’t rise anymore.

“Sure, but where are we even going to find another hunting ground?”

“I know right~? I wonder where a nice place would be.”

Milly’s grumbling like a spoiled child.

Well, the King of Death is going to revive again anyway.

It doesn’t sound too bad to find another hunting ground.

“Let’s split up for a while then. Milly, you’ll go find a new hunting ground while I earn some money in the meantime.”

“Huh...?”

“I’ll put up our stall and sell our products, it’d be more efficient if only one person went out to sell accessories and buy equipment, while the other finds the hunting grounds right?

“T-that’s true... but... umm...”

“I’ll feel at ease if you hold onto the crystal rod for now.”

“That’s... No, I’m fine! I understand! I leave and find a new hunting ground by myself! Without you!”

Milly said so while teleporting away.

Whew.

I have to say, without Milly here I feel a little lonely.

She needs to learn how to act alone in the future, so it’d be good to encourage self-reliance for now.

Although I already roughly know the hunting grounds around here, finding a new hunting ground alone should be good training even for someone like Milly.

– After a few days, once again I was setting foot inside the commercial city of Berita.

I came here to sell my items at my stall and increase our monetary funds.

After that with our increase in gold, I’ll go see if there’s any items that I can buy for cheap.

Then I’ll visit Lydia’s store if there’s time.

There’s a reason I want to go.

I first set foot in First Street’s Square.

I’m not even going to bother if they don’t offer gold.

Stall Square isn’t open during the holidays.

When I finally found some space for my stall, while I was unloading and carrying some luggage on my shoulder, as I was walking through the

crossroads...

“Awawawawa~!?”

A girl suddenly rushed into me from the side, and I accidentally let go of my luggage.

I felt something soft, and my luggage was sent flying through the air.

Somehow I was able to keep my balance, but the girl wasn’t able to keep her balance and fell.

“Ouch~”

‘Are you okay?’ As I was about to say that when I stretched my towards the girl, I noticed something.

Hmm...? Where have I seen...

A blue-haired, ponytail girl that wore a closed white shirt on top that barely covered her large breasts.

Since she was on the ground, with a glance you could get a glimpse of some kind of white fabric in the gap of her hot pants.

There’s also a cart covered with a floral pattern thrown onto the road.

“...Lydia!”

“Wait, If I remember correctly you’re... umm... what’s your name again?”

Come to think of it, I never introduced myself, did I?

“I’m Zeph. Zeph Einstein, I was probably walking without paying attention to my surroundings, sorry.”

“Ah~ right. That makes sense, because I never forget a name and face, ever.”

Concon Lydia picked up her goggles and started laughing. Ahhaha Then suddenly as if she just realized what position she’s in, closed her legs.

“...did you see?”

“A little.”

“Awawawa, don’t tell me you saw?! In my hot pants? Zeph-kun, you must’ve had a nice view huh.”

No, it looked pretty normal... okay it was good.

“Wow~ wait, the contents of your bag is scattered everywhere! Crap, hurry! I’ll help you pick them up!”

Lydia said so, and gleaned over my luggage that was scattered on the ground. Hyoihyoi She profusely and quickly picked everything up.

As expected from a merchant.

Speaking of which, Lydia must be quite possessive of her cart.

Even so, the instant before the crash Lydia pushed her cart away to protect me.

Besides my luggage thrown everywhere, I myself am safe.

While she herself fell, Lydia’s luggage was okay.

This is where you could say the professionalism of a merchant would be needed.

Phew After we picked up all the contents of the magic bag, we decided to take a break.

Hmm... wow Lydia sure is tall.

Whenever I speak to her I always have to look up or else she might not hear me.

Well~ That’s fine, I don’t mind.

“Sorry Lydia, you seemed to be in a hurry, you sure it was okay for you to help me?”

“Oh, well that store over there was have a sale on stamina recovery potions, and it’s made by a famous stall to boot, they were probably going to be sold out immediately due to their popularity anyway. So I’d miss it anyways, so don’t worry about it.”

“I see. Oh, and it’s not like I wasn’t grateful for what you did. Thanks.”

She looked over here with a blank look in her eyes, and then laughed. Ahhaha "Well~ I don't hate honest fools like Zeph-kun who are still exploring the depths of what it means to be a merchant."

I don't feel like I'm being praised.

Lydia continued even after seeing my complex expression.

"Zeph-kun doesn't live in Berita right, so why have you come here today? Could it be that you've come here just to see me?"

Her third statement is right on target.

What I say now doesn't need to be negative.

"Well you helped me out once before, so I was hoping you could help me again."

It's a bit embarrassing, but I should answer honestly at times like this.

To make money, it'd be efficient to be friends with Lydia who's a merchant.

"Really? I'm glad to have been of service, so Zeph-kun is also going to open a stall?"

"Ah, that's right. I need to make some money right now, but back home in Nanami there is no Stall Square."

"Hoho, you need some money? ...Then why not ask Onee-san here if she can help you?"

"Lydia?"

"If you need financial consultations, just leave it to me. I'm the best you know."

She said so while crossing her arms making her already big bulges seem even bigger, while putting on a bewitching smile.

"Just tell Onee-san here everything~♪"

Chapter 21: Poseidon's Tears

—At Lydia's house.

「This is my house!」

When I arrived in front of Lydia's house, it seems that she owned a flower shop.

No, when I took a good look into her shop, there was a display of axes and blunt weapons arranged on the front display with price tags on them.

「Is this a flower shop? Or is this a weapons shop? Which one is it? 」

「It's both, because I love both flowers and weapons」

Oi Oi.

It this kind of shop really okay? Whilst I was thinking such things I entered the shop, and inside, it was actually quite flourishing.

There were customers who were seeking weapons, yet at the same time there were also customers that wanted to shop for flowers.

Weapons and Flowers, both products were of high quality, and there was a strange kind of co-existence/collaboration of the two things.

It was an unusual array of goods.

「Welcome! Welcome! 」(TL: Come on in! etc.)

Lydia let out a cheerful greeting to her customers as she entered her own shop, when I followed behind Lydia into the interior of the shop, there was one big person standing in the counter of the shop calling out to us.

「Welcome home, Lydia」

「I'm homee, Father」

His guts were protruding out of his stomach, and he was as big sideways as he was tall, I mean Lydia was also quite tall, but her father was on another level.

As expected, like father like daughter.

「Hmm? Who's that kid? 」

「Ahh, His name is Zeph-kun. Even if he looks like this he's actually quite the adventurer」

「It's nice to meet you」

Her father nods slightly and begins to stare at me with a measuring look with his eagle eyes.

「.....Is it your new boyfriend? 」

「Bakaa(idiott) ! Obviously that's not the case! 」

She stuck out her tongue〜, and held out her hands towards me alluringly.

She proceeded to grab my hands and pulled me towards the interior of the house.

Looking at the situation, the father seems to be grinning as he watched us.

We passed along a small smelting furnace and boiler, it was a workshop where steel and wooden materials were piled up.

「This is where we make our weapons/arms」

「It's amazing, the equipment are all high quality」

「Even if you say that, it's all the materials father has gathered over the years」

Even though I may not be well acquainted in regards to these types of things, I can see with my amateur eyes that these equipment will surely be worth a huge sum of money if they are sold.

Being able to forge the weapons himself and make a living, her father must be considerably skilled.

「By the way, I just wanted to make sure of something, Zeph-kun, you are actually a magician right? And a really strong one at that」

「.....How did you find out? I don' think I've ever mentioned such a thing」

「well, it was just a feeling/hunch I had. Nothing more than a guess」

I stared at her with eyes of precaution, and she returned an innocent answer, Hmm……She's a really mysterious person. (I can't get a read on her) 「Well another thing is that you seem to be letting out a peculiar aura of a really strong magician, most likely my father has also noticed it?」

Both father and child are really sharp people.

Although it was not actually possible to discern my Magical Power without using Scout Scope. A skilled adventurer may be able to "Sense" my magical power without actually possessing magical power themselves.

In other words, both Lydia and her father must be excellent adventurers.

「And the thing I wanted to talk to you about is」

She interrupted my train of thought, and continued on with her story.

Man she is a really talkative one.

「Tonight, there will be large quantities of Nippers in the cavern at the beach side. And I wanted you to come help me hunt them」

Nippers are demons who had big red shells on their backs and large scissors as pincers. (TL: seems like a crab to me bet its delicious) It doesn't really give a huge amount of experience points, however, sometimes this Nipper demon would drop this item called 「Poseidon's tears」it was an expensive jewel which were often traded for a high price.

Normally these demons were not something that frequently appeared in large numbers, but it would seem that some of their eggs had been washed into the sea shore by the tides and a large number of them began to appear and search for food, naturally the dungeon was a suitable location as it possessed plenty of magical power to sustain them, over the years it would seem that an outbreak of these creatures are appearing in the dungeon as a result.

「There is a limit to the amount I can hunt if I go by myself, and I

thought that with a powerful magician like Zeph-kun accompanying me we can go DONN! And get them all in one go! 」

「I suppose, Nipper hunting is certainly profitable. And with such a large quantity appearing, it would be even more profitable. However, won't there be a lot of other adventurers trying to get a share of the loot? If there is truly that many Nippers to eliminate, a wide ranged magic spell would need to be used, if there are many people in the surroundings I won't be able to cast such a wide range magic without causing a disruption」

If we defeat demons we will be able to obtain items, but, if other adventures are fighting those monsters and they have dealt a huge amount of damage to the monsters, the person dealing the most amount of damage will automatically obtain the rights to the items dropped and experience points gained.

Items can just be transferred or traded if necessary, but experience cannot be shared.

Because of this it will be troublesome, the magician society/association also forbids such an act of potentially kill stealing monsters and such actions are prohibited by the law.

The only exception is in regards to boss monsters, joint cooperation when taking down such a foe is endorsed as the risk will be too high to take on the monster individually.

Because of this, people tend to dislike mages who have a wide range area of attack spell.

「In regards to this matter, it will be alright. There is a secret location which nobody knows about」

「Is that so?」

「I used to play around in that cave since I was a kid, so I even know some of the secret passages. Ah, but you can't tell anyone else about this okay? 」

「I know. How do we plan to divide the earnings? 」

「Would you be happy with half-half? I'm also the one guiding us through the cave after all」

「Naturally, I don't mind」

If I were to go by myself, I wouldn't know the way, furthermore there was a limit to the amount of items I could carry in my pouch/bag, this alternative was a really good deal for me.

「If we need to meet tonight, then I will have to make preparations immediately. I still have to set up my stall as well. Will it be alright if I come over again later at night? 」

「Ah– that's fine. Zeph-kun if you want, I can allow you to sell your items at my shop, what do you think? 」

「You really mean it? That would really save me a lot of trouble」

If I were to compare between setting my own stall or a shop, the chances my item will sell in her shop is much higher. There were plenty of customers who were seeking weapons, and there was also a line of clients that was looking for accessories.

「In terms of the fee……What do you think of this? 」

「…….Isn't that a little cheap? 」

「If it's too expensive it probably won't sell. Besides it's not an accessory that is that high in demand, I think I have to adjust the price to be a little bit below market price」

「Muu, Alright then, I will leave it up to you」

After all Lydia is a pro in terms of business/sales.

As expected it would be better if I listened to her advice in these matters.

It's more efficient this way.

「Alright, after I've eaten supper I will come back to see you again」

「If it gets too late, there won't be any more trains to catch, how about you eat dinner at our place tonight? That's if you have no other

arrangements? 」(TL: they use trains? I thought he can teleport...)「Muu, I suppose if you will have me then.....」

「Ok～! Then, let's do this! 」

And with that, it was decided that I was going to eat my dinner at Lydia's home tonight.

Lydia was wearing an apron as she wielded a cooking knife.

Ton ton (chop chop), there was a rhythmical sound of chopping mixed with the beautiful humming tune of Lydia's voice, it created a comfortable musical atmosphere out of the kitchen.

I actually used teleport to return home for a short while to tell mother that I would be coming home late tonight.

At that time, mother told me that Milly had come over to my house and searched for me several times during the day.

I wonder if I did something bad? I will apologize to her later.....

「Thanks for the wait～!」

Lydia brought out a hot pot stew whilst still wearing her apron.

Because the clothes she was wearing was really short, from my perspective it was as if she was naked except for wearing her apron.

.....Honestly, I didn't know where to put my gaze.

「Fufufu, How is it? Zeph-kun, my daughter Lydia, has a really good figure right? 」

「Father! Haven't I told you time and time again to stop saying those kind of vulgar things? 」

Whilst her father was just grinning/laughing, she poured a bit of the hot nabe unto her father's head.

「HOTTTTTTTTtt!?」

Her father's head started to have some bald scorches and smoke was coming out of his head.

So, cr, cruel.....

「Ah, Sorryy〜. My hand slipped a little♪」

「Grrrr Lydia.....I've been lenient to you because you are my cute daughter, but that all ends today.....」

Her father stands up, and Lydia also puts the hot pot on top of the table and takes a stance.

Both of them were completely still as they stared at each other.

The moment I placed the teacup on the table.

Both of them threw out their fists and grazed each other's cheeks.

.....their fists were so fast I couldn't see it at all.

They were able to dodge each other's attacks at such a close distance.

「That's not a bad strike. Lydia」

「When a customer is here, could you stop making those kinds of sexual harassment remarks」

「Hou.....Are you saying that when there is no customers I can say anything I like? 」

「Obviously You CANTT—-!」

.....And then the two people parted from the table and a terrific scuffle ensued.

It was at a level that people would pay for.....

If this was how she was brought up since she was little, it's no wonder she's so strong.

My hunt with Lydia.

It seems that she will be indescribably reliable.

Chapter 22: Beach Cavern

「I'm really sorry, I've made you see an unsightly spectacle」

When I was leaving Lydia's house, she bowed her head in apology.

From the second floor of the (Arms/flowers shop) her father's voice could be heard.

「Quickly come back inside-」

「I understand already! Father should just clean up and go to sleep already-! 」

What a good relationship they have.

And to think that just a little while ago they were grappling each other and having an argument.

「Well, I suppose we should head off. What should we do to get there? 」

「Is it better if we teleport?」

「Nn～ But you don't know where it is, right? Besides we will stand out too much if we use teleport. Let's just walk」

We went in accordance with Lydia's proposal.

The「Secret Place」Lydia was talking about, seems to be on the other side of the cave at the beach.

It was a place you wouldn't be able to find with a single glance, the kind where you had to creep in from between a small space enclosed by rocks.

Lydia said that she used to play around here a lot when she was a child, but, now that she's all grown up will she be able to squeeze in?

If her height was compared to mine, there would be a considerable difference.

If we are seen walking side by side, it would look like an adult and a child walking together.

Well in reality this was a fact.

「I wasn't able to attend the merchant's examination, last year or the year before that, but well, it should be fine!」

「.....Will it really be fine? 」

A touch of anxiety was creeping into me as we walked to the sandy beach, and I realized that the amount of people nearby was slowly increasing in numbers.

In their arms and hands were a bunch of weapons/arms.

They were definitely adventurers.

They were hanging around the front of the beach cavern.

They were lying in wait for the large amount of nippers that were supposed to appear.

Were they worried that the other parties would come to steal their prey? The guys here seemed to be a little bit tense.

「Zeph-kun over here」

Lydia whispered to me as she pulled me into a hidden grassy place, and just like that we were walking along a different path from the main road.

When we went up the slope, we arrive on top of the beach cavern.

The sea breeze which passed by felt really pleasant on my skin.

Were they scrambling to take each other's prey down there? I could definitely see the adventurers fighting/arguing with each other.

「How foolish.....」

「Over here」

I looked down on those that lacked the necessary information, and I was soaking in the conceit of having an advantage when.....

Lydia called out to me, so I followed her.

「We will enter from this hole」

「.....This is quite narrow」

What existed here was truly a small crevice.

If it was me or Mill it was likely we could enter, however, for someone like Lydia, wouldn't it be really difficult?

「Yeah, I guess it was a good decision to leave my wagon behind」

I don't think that's the issue here...

「Well anyways, let's get going」

As she said such things, she was able to easily slip into the crack.

Inside the darkness, I was getting left behind by Lydia.

「It's a little bit dark.....」

「Shall I make some light appear?」

「Wait」

I was just about to let out my ability "Red Ball" when Lydia stopped me half way.

「If you make a light using fire magic, it will be too bright. We will attract unnecessary attention from the monsters」

She fiddled with her goggles that was on her head, and when she did, light actually appeared out of it.

Although it had a limited range, it was a considerably strong light.

Was it a mechanism that stored some sort of magical energy which could be converted into light, I wonder?

I suppose merchants often made inventions which people can't understand well.

More like since a while ago, I haven't been able to contribute anything.....

When I'm with Lydia it seems that my rhythm is all out of balance.

It feels as if I can't get any brilliant ideas.

As expected, is it because of our difference in height? (TL: Not sure how he came to this conclusion haha) We relied on the light as we advanced.

Although it was not easy to walk in the puddle of water and the rocks

that were lying around, if it was just to this extent there should be no problems.

Lydia was also dealing with her own problems.

In this narrow passage, we were both walking at the same speed.

Initially I was actually worried about the fact that Lydia may not be able to fit into these narrow spaces, but it seemed that my fears were unfounded.

Whilst I was thinking such things, we finally got out of that narrow space and ended up in a much wider cavern system.

「Is this the place?」

「No, not yet. Come inside here」

Lydia pointed her fingers ahead towards the destination, and a small hole to the extent that only a small child could barely enter, appeared.

「Hmm, I suppose this is going to be a bit tight.....Zeph-kun do you mind going first and seeing ahead? It should be a straight path」

Path.....

In my vocabulary this small hole is nowhere near as big as a “path”.

「.....I guess that’s fine but, you said that I should go first, does that mean that Lydia will also follow in after? 」

「Yes of course. I already said that I would be your guide, so I intend to keep to my promise and guide you all the way」

She proudly declared as she stuck out her chest.

No matter how I think about this, it’s impossible for her to fit in this tiny hole.

In a chest-like meaning that is. (TL: her chests are huge after all~) 「I understand. I will go ahead, however, you don’t need to force yourself alright? 」

「Zeph-kun you took the words right out of my mouth」

No, that is definitely the words I'm supposed to say.

"Ahhaha", Lydia was laughing out loud, to be honest it was not a laughing matter.

If you were to get stuck in this kind of place, you would most definitely die.

「Lydia」

「Hmm?」

Lydia turned to face me and I chanted time square.

And then

「Sleep Code!」

It was a magic that could cast an abnormal effect on others, Sleep Code It was a magic that could only be cast in a short distance, furthermore the prerequisite for activation was that you needed to be able to make eye contact with the other party, it was a very effective magic that was able to immediately place the other party into a sleep like state.

The effects are brutal, however even just closing your eyes during the incantation would greatly lower its effects, and because there was a need for a chant it was an easily counter-able type of magic that would be useless if someone expected it to be casted.

It's quite effective towards the various demons, however, it was difficult to cast on multiple enemies and the range wasn't that big so it's a regrettable thing.

However, if I combine this magic with Time Square, the practicality of the spell increases by several levels.

In the time that is suspended by Time Square, using a magical ability within this time will negate the chanting period and the magic is invoked as soon as Time Square ends.

If I use this, even if the spell required a chant to cast, I am able to disregard this disadvantage and it is possible to seamlessly invoke the spell as if it had no chant time.

However, the down side to Time Square was that it could not be used in conjunction with spells that required an extensive/long chant.

With a thud, Lydia crumbles to the floor.

I carried her and laid her down on the side of a big boulder.

She was letting out small breaths as she was sleeping.

It would seem that Sleep Code has properly taken effect.

Although I don't really see any monsters nearby, but just in case I decided to hide her.

「Black Coat」

Clothing made out of air was hiding Lydia's figure, it made her body look transparent.

Black Coat was a magic that hid the object with a layer of air, it assimilated the figure of the object or person into the background, and made it very hard for someone to discover something amiss without looking closely.

After putting on this magic, moving in the coat is really difficult, that's because unless one moves really slowly, it easily peels off, and you need to master the skill in order to be able to move effectively.

However, if you were to just lie still, it would be impossible for someone to discover you.

「Then, I shall go ahead first」

As I said this to Lydia I slipped into the tiny hole.

When I thrust my head in, my back, arms and foot all hit the rock wall.

Even for someone like me who had a small build, it was really hard to pass by.

It might be really doubtful whether Lydia could even enter up to her shoulders.

Although I may have been rash, I feel relieved to have left her behind.

Well, as long as I brought back the Poseidon's tears, I'm sure she won't have any complaints, right?

.....If I find lots of it, I will be sure to pocket/pilfer some for myself though...

I was laughing (Kukuku) as I proceeded to slip past the narrow hole, and on the other side a large cavern space even bigger than the one we were previously in appeared.

On the opposite side, I could see a little bit of the sea.

I suppose the nippers were carried into this space as it was connected with the sea?

In this wide space, even now there were several groups of Nippers lying about.

Let's get warmed up by hunting a few of these!

Nippers were monsters that were composed from the blue magical system.

In terms of Magic there are certain types of affinities that are compatible and incompatible with each other, for example red is weak to blue, or green and sky has similar lineage so it won't be effective to attack a green elemental monster with sky magic.

Soul magic was the only exception, it was a magic that was ineffective against all the other types of magic, However if it was used against the same soul type monster, than it would actually show increased effectiveness.

This is after all, one of the indisputable logic's of this world, if I kept rambling on about these things there would be no end to it, so I will leave it at this for now.

Coming back to the point, using sky magic and green magic against the blue type Nipper monsters is actually the most effective, if going by the book.

「Well then, What should I do?」

Whilst scratching my head, I walked towards the Nippers.

Chapter 23: Nippers

For the time being, let's kill/defeat them one at a time.

As long as I don't begin attacking them first, they won't voluntarily aggro me for no reason.

If I am able to kill them in one blow, then it will be possible to defeat them without even letting them counter attack.

I chanted/casted Scout Scope on the Nippers.

Nipper

Level 12

Magical Value: 820/820

Its magical value is higher than mine, what a cheeky/audacious thing.

By the way, Zombies have around 560 Magical Value and are below me.

For the time being, should we try and attack it?

A Nipper approaches, I casted Black Crash on it.

A black whirlwind propels out of my hand and rips the nipper's body asunder, it was completely annihilated.

In one blow?

Black Crash is a second grade magical spell, so it uses up a lot of magical energy.

If possible I would like to use a magical spell that is of a lower grade to preserve some energy.

(Maybe I will try Black Shot?)

——Black Shot is one of the elementary forms of Sky elemental magic.

It's the improved version of Black Ball, the special characteristic of Black Shot is that it holds more power.

Of course the amount of magic consumption is also increased as a result.

I took my aim at the other Nippers, and fired of Black Shot.

Magical energy converges and forms the shape of a bullet, I fire the spell and it sinks into the Nipper and blows it away, however, it's fighting spirit is still quite strong and the Nipper comes towards me in order to counter attack.

Nevertheless, the Nipper can't even get close enough to attack me, before I fire a second Black Shot and crush it.

Using two Black Shot's takes less magical consumption than casting a single Black Crash, However, as expected it is more efficient to defeat the Nipper in a single blow.

Ahh that's right, I just have to use Magic Amplification and it will be sufficiently good.

If I amplify the effects of Black Shot by twice the power, it should be able to kill the Nipper in one blow.

I casted/invoked Magic Amplification, and searched for more Nippers.

I walked for a little, and used Black Shot on the first Nipper I found.

It satisfactorily destroys the Nipper in one shot.

After the Nipper disappears, there was a bright flash of light.

When I ran up towards it in a hurry, there was a blue jewel.

It was Poseidon's Tears.

「For it to appear this quickly, I guess it must be a good omen」

Poseidon's Tears was put in the bag, and the hunting was restarted.

They said that the Nippers were going to come out in large quantities, should I prepare a large area of effect magical spell?

Most likely the large area of effect spell cannot be used in this location.

In that case I should go with a middle area of effect spell?

I invoked Magical Amplification, and searched for more Nippers to hunt.

There it is.

「Black Storm!」

A small tornado tears up the Nipper.....However it didn't die in one hit and it charged straight at me.

I fall back slightly, whilst I casted Scout Scope.

Nipper

Level 12

Magical Value: 400/820 (TL: This is basically a monsters health points) So there's around half left.....

I could invoke Time Square and cast four consecutive Black Storms to defeat them in one blow (TL: I'm not sure about his math's, shouldn't this be two times? if one Black Storm took half hp lol~), However using Time square would deplete almost all of my magical reserves.

Therefore I will leave this a last resort.

I casted Black Shot on the Nipper that came out to chase me and defeated it.

Because I used too much magical energy I decided to meditate a little.

My spirit is concentrated and I could hear the various sounds of rustling as the Nippers were crawling in the sea.

カサカサ.....ざざぁん.....。(Kasa = Rustle, Rustle and Zazan= SFX for calm waves of water) カサカサカサ.....ざざぁ.....。(Even more Kasa Kasa and Zaza)

カサカサカサカサ.....ざざ.....。

When I looked around, suddenly there was a huge influx of Nippers roaming about.

To think that moments ago I had to walk around in search for them. Now I don't have to walk anymore.

10.....No, there's probably more than 20 of them right here.

Is this what Lydia was talking about when she referred to an

“outbreak”?

「This is……Amazing……」

Woops! This won’t do.

I must hunt them, Hunt!

I hunted them one by one by casting the amplified Black Shot.

Black Shot

Black Shot

Ohh, Poseidon’s Tears Get!

The Magical consumption of Black shot is really efficient, so I didn’t need to stop to meditate and I could continue this fast tempo of hunting.

I was deeply engrossed as I continued to hunt them down, but it would seem that instead of decreasing, the numbers were continuing to increase.

As far as my eyes could reach, the view was covered with Nippers.

If I could just use large scale/area of effect magic, I could round them up in one go……

No, it’s better to knock them out in one go otherwise, they may all come rushing at me. Nippers don’t aggressively attack those that don’t provoke them, it should be safe.

Hmm should I give it a go?

After using Time Square I simultaneous invoke Magic Amplification.

I used a little bit of time to recover all my magic by meditating, and then I started to cast Black Storm.

With Black Storm that is strengthened to four times the strength, the Nippers were totally ripped asunder and cut and crushed, whilst their carapaces were completely splintered/shattered.

All the nippers in my field of view blew up, and a huge amount of the Poseidon’s Tears began to drop down.

All of my magical energy dissipates in a dash.

I predicted that after using these spells, my magical Energy has depleted to not more than two digits perhaps.

Whilst meditating, I picked up the various Poi Tears and placed them in the pouch. (TL: I'm just going to shorten Poseidon's Tears to Poi Tears, too long to type...) My steps were a little unsteady as I continued to pick up the Poi Tears.

Suddenly I noticed that I stepped on something black.

Is this my shadow?

Immediately after that, there was a sound of a high pitched wind going off.

(.....Oh Crap!)

In that moment, I immediately reacted and dashed/ran forwards.

When I turned around whilst running, a red mass could be seen falling from the sky.

——-And.

ZuZun! A thunderous roar accompanied by a cloud of dust flew up.

The earth tremors and quakes and the air shakes, the gigantic figure erects itself slowly.

Big pincers that looked much like scissors and a deep crimson shell with plenty of spikes covering it.

It was a gigantic figure and when it moved even a little, the shell and the scissors/pincers would reflect a gleaming/ghastly light.

「It's a King Nipper-.....?!」

It was the Beach Cavern Boss, King Nipper.

No, strictly speaking the King Nipper wasn't a boss type monster.

The magic that composed this guy, was naturally considerably higher than the other demons, However if you were to compare it to a boss monster, it would actually be relatively low.

Its strength was in the middle of a usual monster and a boss monster.

Perhaps I should call it a middle boss?

The reason behind the “Large out break” of Nippers that Lydia talked about, was probably due to this King Nipper laying its eggs within the cave.

Most likely when I used the Black Storm casted at four times the efficiency, I must of hit the King Nipper which was lying dormant in the cave and made it become angry/aggro.

Although in terms of its strength it is in no way inferior the boss monster King of Death, its movements were slow/dull and if I were to shoot at it whilst running away, the King Nipper would become a harmless like existence that was a good-for-nothing dummy target for my spells.

———-However, that is only the case if I was in a wide spaced area...

In this small space, the smallest approach from the King Nipper would suffocate me as if the space around me became even narrower.

This is really bad.....

For the time being, let’s try to gain some distance, as I continue to meditate.

I can’t let my escape route be blocked.

I prepared myself in case of a surprise attack, and as a habit I applied “Safe Protection” on myself. (TL: I think this is the name of the spell that deflected the King of Death’s attack and reduced incoming damage by 90 %) If I have this, I probably won’t die in a single hit, right?

The King Nippers raises its pincers overhead.

It’s moving in a huge motion.

This attack, even if you were an idiot you could avoid it.

(That’s if I wasn’t in such a narrow space)

The large pincers came crashing down towards me, I ducked low and

ran a short distance away from it. The place where I just stood moments ago was completed blown away from the impact and a large roaring after effect of the ground being crushed resounded.

「Uohhh!?」

The broken fragments of the ground splinters with a pitter-patter as it hits me.

Avoiding it's pincers in such a narrow space is really difficult.

Naturally, fighting it head on and defeating it is impossible.

I need to get away from it, and even if I need to teleport into the hole I came from to hide, that may be the best option I have right now.

If I were to go that far, it will be unlikely that it will pursue me right?

I slowly walk towards the opposite direction from the hole I came from.

The King Nipper followed me closely and sometimes it smashed it's pincers towards me.

Scary, Scary.

I move slowly so that The King Nipper would follow me and I repeated this process, some way or another I managed to successfully lure him away from the hole I came from.

「Geez you've given me so much trouble.....But now I must bid you farewell」

I invoked Teleport and I flew to the hole I came from.

I was now on the opposite side of the King Nipper.

Before this slow fellow is able to turn around and catch up to me, I am sure I can crawl out to safety in time.

Now I just have to make up a story that I ran away from the King Nipper after it had appeared to Lydia.

Besides, I've gotten quite a few of these Poi Tears.

Before that fellow notices I'm going to go through this hole.

I squatted down and when I tried to shove my head into the hole quickly, Gochin! I crashed into something.

「Ouchhh～～!?」

It was Lydia.

When I peeked through the small hole I could see Lydia's face and her squeezed/crushed breasts.

Or more like, that was all I could see.

With such a body figure, how the heck did she even manage to get this far?

「よいしょっ……と」(There we go, Lydia squeezing out)

Lydia bent and twisted her body back and forth like a snail/snake/worm and she wriggled out of the hole.

「Fuu～. I've somehow managed to pass～」

Pon (Pat Pat) she brushed off her knees, and as she stood up, it was apparent that Lydia was definitely bigger than me.

「……..Are you some kind of Mollusks or something? 」

「How rude of you! Or more like what happened to me? It seems that I fainted? 」

「Ah, Ahh……You suddenly fainted on me. Thus, I laid you down on the side of a rock」

「…….Hmm, Is that so? In that case Thanks!!」

Doesn't she doubt me in the slightest? …

Unexpectedly she seems to be quite the naive girl.

Zuzuunn!!

The King Nipper finally turned around and faced our direction.

Ugh, darn it…

「Ohh, isn't that a King Nipper? So it came out I see, isn't it hard to fight it in such a narrow space like this? 」

Ahahaha, Lydia was laughing even though she saw a gigantic King Nipper coming towards us. (TL: LOL Lydia is cute~ so carefree...) It was almost as if she had experience fighting such a thing.

「.....Have you ever fought one before? 」

「I have, though I have never won against it before」

That is to be expected.

The King Nipper has a shell/carapace that has a dreadful/tremendous amount of defense attached to it, it was the one thing it could be proud of.

Using normal physical attacks in order to harm it is theoretically impossible.

「But this time I have Zeph-kun who is a magician, so I think we can beat it.....!」

It would seem that she was fired up.

It is true that if we make use of Lydia's nimble body, she should be able to handle the dull movements of a slow King Nipper, and it would be easy for her to become my vanguard..... However...

「Let's do this!」

「う、うむ.....」(F, finee)

I was made to give in to Lydia again...

It would seem that I am inadvertently being influenced by Lydia's pace once again.....

Chapter 24: King Nipper

「Alright, It's decided then.....」

After deciding what to do, Lydia takes out a huge axe out of her bag.

It had a long handle and a large blade attached to its head, it was a Battle Axe. It seemed to be really heavy but, Lydia was swinging it like it was some kind of toy....!

「.....Let's do this! 」

Lydia kicks off the ground and begins to attack the King Nipper, she easily slips through the Pincers that were launched at her and she closes the gap between them instantaneously.

—-So fast!

However, she's getting way too close to it.

When there was some distance between you and a King Nipper the only thing it could do was slam down its pincers, however, when you got close enough to it, the King Nipper boasts a variety of different attack patterns.

When Lydia approaches it, bubbles start foaming from its mouth. (Sfx: buku buku, bubble bubble) 「Lydia! It's about to spit foam at you! 」

As soon as I gave her a warning, the King Nipper unleashes its bubbles.

The adhesiveness of this bubble is extraordinarily high, and if you get hit by it you won't be able to move properly.

Lydia realizes that the bubble scatters in a wide area, so she thrust her huge axe into the ground and uses it as a pivot in order to perform a backward somersault.

Lydia falls off balance as she lands and the Pincers immediately come crashing down towards her. However, Lydia uses her huge long axe to deflect the pincers, and using the spinning momentum she makes a full rotation to avoid a direct hit.

She avoids it.

She avoids it.

She avoids it.

Moreover in a very flashy way.

She was toying with it perfectly.

When she previously mentioned that this place was her playground, don' tell me she meant playing like this right?

In terms of Lydia's style in wielding the axe, she placed emphasis on her technique in manipulating the axe more so than just brute strength.

Utilizing the tip of the heavy axe dexterously, The King Nipper is being led around by the nose with her mysterious movements.

It was similar to the kind of movement I saw in my previous life, the movement of a dancer who used a pole to support her movement. (TL: Pole dancing??) Woops! This isn't the time to be enjoying the view.

My magical energy has completely recovered.

「Spirits of the earth, become the body of armor that provides protection!」

「Safe Protection」

I provided Lydia with an earth defensive spell.

It would seem from the way she was avoiding the pincers that she would be totally fine, but I did it as a precaution.

Lydia turns to face me and waves a "Thank kyu〜".

Immediately after, The King Nipper strikes its Pincers, and her ponytail shakes/sways from the wind pressure.

.....Just now, It feels like she was able to dodge that attack without even looking, it must be just my imagination right?

I invoked Scout Scope on the King Nipper.

King Nipper

Level 58

Magical Value: 65824/65824

Its magical value is quite high isn't it?

The fact that it's high is not the problem, but, the problem is that I cannot use my most powerful red magic spell "Red Zero" amplified by four times, as it will have little to no effect on a blue element monster.

The high magical cost of the ability is also really inefficient.

That would mean the remaining spells are.....

Well I suppose I should try it out.

I invoked Magic Amplification as I got closer.

「Black Crash」

A whirlwind shaves off a small portion of the King Nippers hardened shell, and I immediately backed off at the same time.

The King Nipper who suffered some damage for the first time glared at me menacingly, Lydia instantly responded by assaulting and harassing the King Nipper in order to attract it's attention.

Lydia that girl, she's actually pretty good in being able to read the situation, she is seemingly accustomed to these kinds of battles.

I casted Scout Scope on it once again.

King Nipper

Magical Value: 63458／65824

I did about 2000 damage?

By the way, casting a black crash that was amplified by two times consumes 1/3 of my magical reserves.

That would mean I need to blast it 32 more times.....It's impossible.

In that case, should I use the ability I experimented with before I came to Beruta?

During the time I consider my options, obviously I was also meditating.

By the way, being able to think clearly or even converse whilst

meditating is an extremely difficult thing to achieve, for someone like Milly this would not yet be possible.

Well, I suppose I've recovered enough magical energy, Should I give it a go for the time being?

「Invoke Time Square!」

At the same time as my invocation Time Stops, I then cast both Red Crash and Black Crash simultaneously.

I release the time stop, and two forms of powerful magic manifests at the same time.

A strong spiral of an explosive flame is mixed with a gust of whirlwind, it struck one of the foot of the King Nipper and smashed it into a pulpy mess.

Zuzun……The King Nipper's balance is destroyed along with its foot.

「Uwaaa(Wow) Amazing……」

Lydia was doing a hand stand on the Axe, and a voice of admiration slips from her, as she easily avoids the bubbles of the King Nipper.

Right now, her face was completely looking in my direction.

Oi, look behind you, behind…

When I chant Time Square and then combine it with any sort of magical spell, it will definitely increase the power of the spell, however, if I combine Time Square with two spells from two different magical schools, the results are tremendous and a new form of magic can be created.

「…….For the time being, allow me to name this spell Pyro Crash」

However, it consumes a huge amount of magic in one go.

Invoking two different magic school simultaneously whilst using Time Square is truly exhausting/severe.

Before I meditated I casted Scout Scope on the King Nipper again.

King Nipper

Magical Value: 55287／65824

I dealt about 8000 damages, this is actually pretty good.

I thought that the amount of damage would be reduced because I combined it with fire magic, but it turns out that is not the case.

There plenty of cases in which the peculiar characteristics are mixed together to create various new systems, and in history there have been a lot of instances whereby these systems don't really belong to any specific element in particular.

It is that perhaps the spell I just created also follows this logic?

Anyways, I begin to meditate.

Meanwhile I am keeping a close eye on Lydia's battle but, as per usual the King Nipper doesn't seem to be able to land a single hit on her.

「Neee～」(Heyy～)

Buon! (Boom!)

「Zeph-kun～」

Dogo!! (Dong!)

「Do you have Magic Recovery Medicine～?」

Bogo! (Bang!)

She even has room to worry about me?!

When I nod, Lydia jumps backwards and around 20 magic recovery pellets/medicines are taken out from her bag.

「This, I will take it out of your tab kay～」

「I understand」

As expected of a merchant, she's so stingy even in a place like this.

I swallowed several numbers of recovery medicines.

Alright, I have recovered all my magical energy.

I got close to it as I casted Time Square.

And I invoke Red Crash and Black Crash simultaneously.

「Pyro Crash」

Pyro Crash completely destroys another one of the King Nippers Leg again.

What a terrifying power.

No matter how I see it, it feels as if the amount of damage it deals is way above the actual number it displays.

Just 47000 more to go.

I swallowed some more Magical Recovery pellets.

.....We repeated the same thing several times, until we defeated the King Nipper.

It took us a long time.

I could also feel that I had leveled up.

「It was a really tough monster wasn't it～」

Lydia seems to be really tired as expected.

She was panting heavily, and her clothes were fully drenched in her sweat, her white shirt became transparent and revealed her flesh-colored skin.

「But as I would expect magic is really an amazing thing～ Even when I hit the King Nipper with my full power, it didn't take any damage at all」

「King nipper's have very high tolerance to physical attacks, and low resistance to magical attacks. And the fact that I was able to concentrate on attacking was all thanks to Lydia being able to distract it and obtain its aggro. Your movements were truly amazing」

「Oh, stop it you～ you are making me feel embarrassed～ I wasn't that amazing.....If compared to my father, this kind of thing would be a cinch for him! 」

Is she trying to be modest, or trying to boast?

Or more like, her father is even more terrifying than her?

「Alright, well then shall we resume out hunt for Nippers again?」

Even though she had been at it for so long, she actually wanted to continue hunting?

What frightening physical strength.

I suppose this is what you would call an indomitable Commercial Spirit?

Chapter 25: Bath

After that, I hunted all the nippers left in the area, and then returned to Lydia's house.

There was a variety of King Nippers in the Beach Cavern and their revival time is really disconnected.

King nippers usually disappear from the cave after laying all its eggs, and it takes about one full year to revive itself.

「Even so, were weren't really able to get that many. Poseidon's Tears」

「Well that's because we had to defeat a King Nipper along the way」

In the end, we only managed to obtain around 10 Poseidon's Tears.

All together it's worth around 10,000 rupi.

Lydia seems to be unsatisfied with our haul, but it's actually quite a big profit.

If we halve it, both of us would get 5,000 rupi.

「Then shall we go cash in? Before that though, I want 12,500 rupi」

Whilst saying such a thing she stretches out an empty hand towards me.

「？」

「The total of the Poseidon's Tears is 10,000 rupi for 10 of them. You used 35 of my magical recovery pellets that comes to – 35,000 rupi. In other words 35,000 – 10,000 is equal to 25,000 rupi, we then divide the cost equally to get -12,500 per person」

Ah, I get it.

「No, the thing is I don't have any cash at hand.....Would it be alright if we waited for the item I entrusted to you in the shop to sell before I pay you? 」

「Of course. Although this time around it's been a shame that we ended losing money, let's go hunting together again some other time, alright? 」

Oh yeah, incidentally Milly is trying to make the strongest guild, and is currently looking for strong companions.

How about I try to invite Lydia in the guild?

I have no qualms with her level of proficiency as a war potential, moreover she has a shop and I could really use the selling connection.

I almost forgot to do this, but I invoked Scout Scope unto Lydia.

Lydia Randeia

Level 11

「Red」Magic Value 0, Magical Limit 0

「Blue」Magic Value 0, Magical Limit 0

「Green」Magic Value 0, Magical Limit 0

「Sky」Magic Value 0, Magical Limit 0

「Soul」Magic Value 0, Magical Limit 0

Magic Value 0

Yeah, I suppose if a human being doesn't have any magical power it would look like this.

She's level 11.....

Indeed, her fighting sense, and her evasion sense have no relationship to her level, therefore, even though her level is low, it is hiding her true potential. There are a lot of strong people out there among the low-leveled.

However I never expected her level to be even lower than mine....

I was surprised by the fact that a girl of such a level was able to run about and fight a mid-boss level monster without any fears.

By all means, I want her in the guild.

Whilst thinking such things I was staring at her face and she noticed it.

「Is there something on my face?」

「No, It's just that I'm looking for comrades」

—I just let it slip out.

When hunting, if there was someone to fill a vanguard position like Lydia, as a backline magic caster I would feel much safer.

It was already proven when we fought that King Nipper. Thanks to Lydia's maneuvering and control of aggro, we were able to take down the monster in such a cramped location.

Of course it is Milly's guild so the one that will get the last call is her, but I'm sure she wouldn't mind it if I invited Lydia.

「You are scouting me? Yeah I'm really happy to be invited but I already have a shop to tend to.....Do you think it will be alright if I think things over first? 」

「Certainly. I will probably drop by when my item sells, at that time you can give me your answer. I also need to get permission from the leader」

「Ahhaha, You should've invited me after you got permission. The other party, may not even be satisfied with my capabilities」

Her fighting power is without any faults, she is also really good with money, plus she was able to take care of a child like me.

There was no chance that Milly wouldn't be satisfied with Lydia.

「Well, I think it should be fine. It's basically a free guild so we have a huge amount of freedom in being able to do what we like, I think it won't be a bad deal for you to join」

「I understand. I will look at it with a positive outlook. The next time we meet will probably be during the time your item is sold. By that time, Zeph-kun should speak to the leader-san, we can decide it then」

She's quite a careful person.

As expected of a merchant.

This is probably the natural procedure for a normal person as well.

It's because I just recklessly invited her without first asking for

permission.

I kind of just let whatever came to my mind slip out.

「Fuuaa...(Exhales) 」

「Ahhaha, what a big yawn. You must be tired ne〜」

As she spoke, she also looked really sleepy.

Whilst she was laughing her eye's seemed to flutter a little.

It's already midnight after all.

「Well then, it's already so late, I will also head home」

「Eh? You are planning on travelling all the way to Nanami Town right now? It's really dangerous at night, you shouldn't go」

「I have the Teleport ability, it should be fine」

「It's pitch black out here, besides you won't be able to see the monsters clearly if they attack, As I thought I can't let you go. Just come over and stay at my place」

「No, I mean that is a little....」

「It's fine , It's finee! Just come and stay over! Don't mind the small details! Kay just follow mee 〜」

She pushed on my back forcefully, and I was taken inside Lydia's home.

Well I suppose it's true that teleporting in the dark like this can be a little bit dangerous.....

I couldn't really argue against her sound logic.

「You were sweating a lot, would you like to take a bath ?」

「.....Please allow me to do so」

Even if I declined, she would probably force me, right?

I think I will just obediently accept her suggestion.

The bath in Lydia's house had a flagstone floor, and there was a tub where you needed to pour in the hot water.

A bath is filling the tub with water that is heated up using magic, and then soaking one's body inside the water to wash of the dirt.

It was lukewarm water but it was a good enough temperature.

Lydia's father must have heated it up as soon as she got home.

I sink my body into the small tub.

「Fuahaa～.....How refreshing....」

It feels as if all the exhaustion from my body is being washed/melted away with the hot water.

This thing known as a bath was once spread when a certain person from a foreign country introduced it to this country, it was a brilliant invention.

「Is the water temperature good enough～?」

「It, it's fine. There is no problem」

I was suddenly talked to so I was a little bit surprised. If I thought about it, I suppose I was in Lydia's house right now. Lydia also sweated quite a lot. She probably wanted to enter the bath soon, its better if I got out quickly.

Just as I got out from the bathtub, the door of the changing room is opened.

「I'm sorry, I ended up using the bath before you did」

「Oh? Already getting out? 」

Right in front of me, was Lydia standing with her upper body completely exposed.

Her ponytail is let down, and her long hair sticks to her curvaceous body. It was so close before I could see her most important parts, but that was not the issue here.

「I was thinking of going to the bath together, but I guess you are going to escape?」

Ahahaha, Lydia laughed.

I was completely petrified.

Even though I was petrified, I couldn't take my eyes of Lydia.

「Well Then, I'm going to enter〜」

After saying so, she also took off her undergarments and she enters the bathroom.

If I thought about it, my externals look like a kid, so the fact that she was entering into the bathroom to have a bath together, may not really be a joke after all.

Tsk, what a regrettable thing.

Afterwards, I borrowed the big sofa from the reception room, and then I went to sleep in it.

Lydia invited me to sleep together with her, but I suppose going that far would be dangerous, so I declined with all my willpower.

If I was confronted with such a figure once again, I don't have the confidence to keep my reason.

However I am really tired.....

It seems that since I am in a child's body I have been really sleepy whenever it gets too late at night. It was not really unusual for me to be training or hunting till late in the night.

And usually after such a training session is would become easy for me to fall asleep. However, because I saw Lydia's naked figure a little while ago, my brain was bedazzled and I couldn't really fall asleep.

But for me to become so effected just by seeing a naked lass/girl.....It seems that my spirit is being effected by the child's pubescent body.

Even though I could no longer see her with my eyes, my body is still going crazy/malfunctioning.

Damn you Lydia!

?
うーん
うーん

Chapter 26: Claude

The night passes and the morning dawns.

「Thanks for taking care of me」

「What are you saying, don't worry about it. I also feel like I have a small little bro, so it's been really fun」

She's treating me like a younger brother?

I suppose it makes sense.

I'm sure that when she meets up with Milly she will definitely be happy to have a "younger sister" right?

I invited Lydia to the guild without Milly's permission and it is possible that she will get angry with me.

I have a feeling that Milly will tell me that I shouldn't increase the guild members.

.....However, I know that deep inside Milly wants more valued guild members, so maybe there is a chance that she will be really happy?

Well I will talk to her later.

If she says no, than I suppose it can't be helped.

I left Lydia's home and went out of town.

Oh yeah, didn't mother tell me that yesterday, Milly came by the house several times?

Before I go back home I should give her a visit.

When I arrive at Nanami town, I used a guild message to call Milly.

「Milly, are you there? Its me」

「Zeph!? Geez, where have you been! You've made me look everywhere」

「My bad, I was at Beruta Town. However I have accomplished my objectives. Also there is a thing I need to tell you」

「Is that so? I also have something to talk to you about. Can you come to

my house immediately?」

I wonder if she found some nice loot or something?

She seemed to be in high spirits.

I used teleport until I reached Milly's house.

When I arrived at her house, she was already standing in her front entrance.

Even though it would have been fine for her to wait inside.

The moment she saw me, she ran up to me.

As usual she's like a puppy.

I will keep silent about the fact that her shaking twin tail looks really similar to a dog's tail...

「Zeph!」

「You seem well, Milly」

She showed me an energetic smile.

「You seem really glad somehow, did you manage to find a good hunting ground or something?」

「I guess you could say that. I found a lakeside in the north where a water spirit lives in, and I also found the den of a Kobold in the southern forest」

「The lakeside shore in the north and the Kobold's forest.....They both seem like pretty good hunting grounds, but a water spirit is a really bad match for magicians, because it can use long range attacks. Kobolds always travel in packs and getting surrounded is also another weakness for us magicians」

When I pointed out some of the flaws, Milly had a face full of confidence, she wagged her fore finger as she let out a couple of (tsk tsk).

A.....annoying.....

「You should listen to someone's full conversation before interrupting

you know? I found those places as hunting ground, however there is something extremely good that I managed to find!」

「What is it?」

Milly was trying to gauge my appearance whilst having a big grin across her face. “Take a guess”, this was the kind of face she had.

She’s really acting all high and mighty...

I can roughly understand.

After all I am thinking the same thing.

「.....Could it be that you’ve found a companion that you want to put in the guild, or something like that? 」

「Eh? How did you know? 」

「Although it’s a coincidence I also managed to find someone that I am scouting. I just thought that maybe Milly was the same」

Milly’s face was becoming more sullen as I continued to talk.

「For me the person I found is a merchant in Beruta town. Right now, I have consigned items to sell at their shop. I will go around next week to see how it goes」

「.....Is it a girl? 」

「How.. Did you know? 」

「.....I will decide after I meet her」

「From the start that’s what I planned on doing. Please be relieved」

Milly’s face turned sour in an instant.

When I was holding hands with Clare Sensei, she also showed this kind of pouting face... (TL: Sensei =teacher) I really think that we need to expand the guild a little more.

At this rate, it will never become the strongest guild.

「So how about Milly? Who did you manage to find? 」

「Ah- yeah, they are inside my house right now」

She answered me snappishly.

Her bad mood doesn't seem to be recovering.

It couldn't be helped so I patted Milly's head.

「Wai.....What are you doing! Zeph」

「Were you planning on introducing me to our new companion with such a sullen face? Well I suppose I don't mind it either way. It doesn't seem like the other party is that interested anyways」

「.....」

Milly blushes in shame whilst looking downwards, for a little while we remained in the position where I was giving her a gentle rub on her head.

「Y...Alright, okay that's enough! Let's go! 」

A little while after she brushed off my hand, and walks towards the house in a quick pace.

I followed behind her and entered the room.

Milly's room which was cleaned up previously, was already splendidly cluttered with things.

However it seems that there is still enough place for my foot, I proceed carefully so as to make sure that I don't step on any waste/rubbish.

Then, I saw a young boy sitting on the floor, with a very polite posture.

He was wrapped in a light weight silver armor, placed on his sides is a sword and shield for each hand. His brilliant blonde hair shines when compared to the flat colors of the room.

The age doesn't seem too different from mine, perhaps a little older?

Looks like he noticed us? He stands up with a jolt as his beautiful fair hair shakes.

「Milly-san, welcome home!」

It was a loud, energetic voice.

The glance he lets out is truly dazzling/radiant.

He wanted to greet me by shaking my hands so of course I reciprocated.

「It's nice to meet you, My name is Claude」

It's a face and name I seem to have seen/heard from somewhere...

I can't really put my head around it, but I suppose if I thought about it, I have lived two separate lives.

After all, I had a multitude of acquaintances in my previous life.

In my previous life I joined various guilds, so he could have been one of the acquaintances I had met before.

Without worrying too much about it, I also greeted him.

「My name is Zeph, I am a magician. I know this is sudden to ask but, may I inquire the reason as to you would be willing to join a guild as shabby as ours? There should be plenty of other great guilds around this area if I am not mistaken? 」

「Hey! It's not shabby! 」

I ignored Milly's protests and continued on.

「From the looks of it, you seem to be a novice, however for a beginner, it may be better to join a guild with more people in it, wouldn't you say?」

「I am the youngest child born of a knight's lineage. However, in the last few years, my family has accumulated money troubles and it has become really hard for my family to support me, thus there was no other choice but to become an adventurer. Nevertheless, I am still a Knight by blood, I don't do this just because I need to make a living out of being an adventurer, my other objective is that I am looking for a master/lord to whom I can serve as a knight 」

What an indescribably hard life he must of lived...

In order to maintain that knight equipment of his, it would also cost a lot of money.

In order to be able to stand in the front lines as a knight, it would take a lot of money to purchase physical strength recovery medicine.

When a knight has plenty of money, that's when they will shine with brilliance.

Therefore, in a knight's case, their equipment is sort of like a testimony to how accomplished they are.

Claude is the youngest child, rather than being given equipment, it seems more likely that he was driven out of the house.

But, it looks like he did not hold any grudges for being kicked out of his house.

「Right now I am still inexperienced, when I was surrounded by Kobolds and had fallen into a huge dilemma, Milly-san appeared and was kind enough to save me. The appearance of Milly-san who swept in and casted her terrifying magic eliminating all the demons, was like a war angel.....When I came to I decided to become Milly-sans apprentice!」

Oh, Oh.

Did he really just say "war angel"?.....he seems to be a young boy that likes to fantasize a little.

Well, I suppose an adventurer who is just starting out would be like this.

「I recognize that Milly-san is a suitable master to dedicate my sword to and whilst I may become a bother and intrude upon you, please allow me to apologize in advance.....!」

Well I suppose, if Claude joins us Milly will stop being so clingy towards me, right?

He doesn't seem to be a bad fellow either, I think it is fine to let him join.

「Zeph-kun, Let us work hard together as Milly-sans disciple/apprentice!!」

—Stiffen up/petrified.

When I looked at Milly's face, she immediately turned away.

When Claude looked at me with such a pure smile, I could do nothing

but let out a bitter smile in return.

What? Was he referring to me when he called me an apprentice of Milly?

(What is this about?? Milly?)

(Welll～ I kind of blurted it out on accident.....) (You inadvertently boasted about yourself and made stuff up? this kind of thing?) (Well....I'm sorry)

Tehehehe, Milly laughed in a slovenly/sloppy way.

You really don't look like you are sorry, Milly.

「I'm sorry, Claude. It was a lie when I said he was my apprentice. He is actually my sub-leader」

「Oh I see, is that how it is?」

Well at least it was accepted pretty fast, that's good.

「So, Zeph. What do you think? Reckon he can join us? 」

「Well I think it should be fine? He looks really hardworking, and he doesn't seem like the kind of person who would do anything strange」

「Is that true? Awesome～! 」

Raising both his arms, Claude was delighted.

Milly claps her hands.

This kind of scene, is actually pretty nice.

「Oh yeah! Let's do a welcoming party for Claude! Is there anything that Claude wants to do? 」

「Hmm, let me think.....」

Clause thinks for a little while, then as if he thought of something his expression changed.

「How about this! I want to have a friendly match with Zeph-kun! Being able to support Milly at such a young age and become the sub-leader, I am really curious about your abilities! 」

Am I really that young compared to them? I thought the three of us were around the same age, no?

「I don't really mind it but, Claude you mentioned that you wanted to have a match, what is it that you propose?」

「That is of course I want to have a combat match. Arm's/weapons are taken, and both of us should have a decisive battle to determine the winner」

「Ehhh!? Isn't that really dangerous?!」

Well if I use Safe Protection, there is probably nothing to worry about……

He probably doesn't like the fact that a small runt like me is in a higher position than him.

If I win this he should acknowledge that I am number 2.

Isn't he quite the energetic youth?

I don't particularly dislike this kind of person.

「Interesting. Shall we make it so that the defeated person will owe one thing to the winner? 」

「Thank you very much. I look forward to having a fair match with you….! 」

Chapter 27: Duel

———Outside of town.

The wind blows over the plains, the grass sways.

Both Claude and I were taking a fighting stance as we faced each other.

Milly was standing in between us.

“Guys don’t fight because of me!” Milly was taking that kind of position, she seemed to be anxious about us and at the same time a little bit excited.

「How about this? I will place Safe Protection on both of us, and the first person to land a blow will be the winner」

「Seifuto purotekushon?」(Safe protection)

「What is that?」

Both Milly and Claude looked confused.

Oi ,oi, Apart from Claude, Milly should at least know about this spell.

Or more like, didn’t I use safe protection in the fight against the King of Death?

What a frightening girl.

「Safe protection is a magic spell that will reduce the incoming damage by 90 % for the first blow only. I of course have no intention of using powerful magical spell in this duel, but this is more of a precaution for an emergency」

「I also do not wish to cause any grievous wounds to Zeph-kun, so having a spell like that will be very welcome」

Claude was smiling broadly at me.

He really said it, this fellow. (TL: Claude was talking as if without the magic, he may accidently cause a serious injury to Zeph, Claude is being a little playfully arrogant here ~) Even so I will go easy on him.

I will only use elementary magical spells.

If I am able to defeat him by merely using elementary magic, Claude will also learn the difference in our abilities that should teach him a lesson, right?

Claude was planning on using a wooden sword and a shield.

「Where do you want to start this?」

「It's fine if Zeph-kun chooses the starting location」

What a conceited brat.

Where is all that confidence coming from?

I was about to use scout scope on him, but I decided against it in the end as I was planning on using only elementary magic to defeat him.

If it will be decided in a single blow, than things like level doesn't really give a reliable indication of strength anyways.

Well, I suppose I will make him silent by showing my superiority.

「How about we put our backs against each other, and start after we take 10 steps forward?」

「I understand」

We took an approximate distance from each other and turned around.

The appearance of Claude who took his fighting stance with his wooden sword and shield was fairly decent.

He seems pretty acquainted with using the sword.

「I'm coming....!」

「Come at any time」

As soon as the words left my mouth, Claude raised his shield and charged towards me.

First of all let me test him out.

I aimed my sights on Claude's legs and I invoked Blue Ball.

He swiftly avoided the Blue Ball by jumping over it, and just like that he swung his wooden sword down towards me.

I fall back a little to avoid his strikes, and he tried to swing his sword in pursuit.....however.

「Uwaaaaaaa!?」

The ground where Claude steps on collapses and he was swallowed up by the pitfall.

A little while back, I already set this up with Green Ball so that the ground would cave in.

Although it was difficult to detect if you were far apart, but the hole I made with Green Ball was really full of distinct bumps/holes. It's because he was covering his own field of vision with his own shield that he didn't notice.

What a shame.

In order to land the finishing blow, I peered into the hole Claude dropped into.

—-In that Moment.

A flaming ball shot out from within the hole I was peering into.

Is that a Red Ball?

I can't avoid it.....?!

(White Wall.....tsu!)

Just immediately before a direct hit, I was able to invoke White Wall, it was a really close call.

I completely absorbed Claude's red ball spell and this time I thrust only my hands out towards the hole.

「It can't be.....」

「Black Ball」

Claude lets out a voice of regret, and I don't give him any mercy as I chant my magic in retaliation.

「Uwa—-!」

Zuzunn……An impact could be heard from within the hole.

There was a cloud of dust rising from within the hole, it would seem that I landed a direct hit on him.

Ah, that was dangerous…..

I didn't expect Claude to be able to invoke magic.

And after falling from such a height, yet he was still able to counter attack me from such a position, he's actually pretty good.

I let my guard down.

This time around I peeked in the hole to confirm that I had landed my direct hit.

……Sneakily.

In the hole Claude was sprawled out in a 大 fashion.

It seems that I may have went too overboard.

……Don't tell me that when he fell into the hole, Safe Protection invoked, and the attack I just launched may have really been a direct hit……

Well I guess it will be fine with a spell like Black Ball, right?

I confirmed my victory and raised my arm towards Milly.

「Zeph has won!」

Milly raised a red flag and my victory was declared.

Where was she keeping such a thing I wonder?

When both Milly and I used teleport to descend to the bottom of the hole, Claude was already sitting down cross legged.

His armor seems to be undamaged but his clothes were a little torn.

I suppose I did a bad thing.

「Itata (ouch)……As expected of Zeph-kun. Being Milly-sans sub-leader is not just in name. For you to be this strong, honestly I am surprised. I invoked that Red Ball with the confidence that it would definitely land, but……」

「Claude is the one that deserves a mention. I was resolved to only use elementary magic to defeat you, however」

「As I thought, you were going easy on me? So that it wouldn't happen I tried to provoke you.....Please let me apologize for such impoliteness earlier. And next time, I will make sure to force you to become serious!!」

Claude was being both bashful and bitter about his loss as he said the words.

He let out a pretty boy smile.

He's still not as handsome as me though.

「Claude, aren't you full of scratches?! Look take off your armor! I will perform healing for you okay? 」

「No, I think that even If I keep my armor on.....」

「I'm not that proficient at healing so, unless I see where the wound is I can't do it properly! Hora Move it! 」

「I understand.....」

Claude removes the armor reluctantly.

Part of the clothes were ripped here and there, and fair white skin sticks out.

The line of the body was slender and round, almost as if he was a girl.....

「Eh?....Ummm, that is.....Claude could it be that.....you are actually a girl? 」

「Ummm, that is.....Yes」

「Ehhhhhhh!?」

She's a girl.....Surely that's not.....

Zowari (crack), a chill ran up through my spine.

The armor and jacket of Claude was taken off, and whilst casting healing on to Claude who was only wearing her shirt, Milly had a

complex look on her face.

「I didn't expect for Claude to be a woman.....」

Milly was grumbling as she saw Claude's chest by chance.

The swelling of her chest is obviously larger than Milly.

Whilst looking at this, Milly's face became even more complex.

「I'm sorry, it was not really my intention to keep silent about it.....But for some reason it was really hard to find a good time to mention it, that is.....」

「It, it's fine. It's also part of my mistake that I didn't ask」

Milly also seems to be surprised, but it was not as shocked as I was over the revelation.

Woman.

Magician.

Claude

Those three keywords, "I have definitely seen it before" I was able to make a connection with her face and name.

Just to make sure, I casted Scout Scope unto Claude.

Claude Leonhardt

Level 16

[Red] Magical Value 9 Threshold Value 45

[Blue] Magical Value 5 Threshold Value 39

[Green] Magical Value 0 Threshold Value 40

[Sky] Magical Value 0 Threshold Value 47

[Soul] Magical Value 0 Threshold Value 51

Magic Value 324/324

As expected.

When she was older, her atmosphere was different than it was now, so I

didn't realize it but, after confirming her full name I was convinced that I knew her in my past life.

If I looked closely she really resembled that person, I don't think I am mistaken.

When Milly first showed me that scroll about Scout Scope, why didn't I start to doubt it back then?

The genius magician who brought the Scout Scope into the Magical Association Society.

That name was not Milly Reyad.

If my memories are correct, the genius magician who brought out the spell Scout Scope into my previous world was precisely Claude Leonhardt.

It was the girl right in front of my eyes, it was her.

Chapter 28: Guild Emblem

The Claude Leonhardt I know from the future, is the person who brings the magic known as Scout Scope into the Magician Society and she is a genius magician.

My title as the Supreme Flame Mage was taken away within the next year of Scout Scopes discovery, furthermore she appeared like the wind and also disappeared without a trace so I don't have too much information about her.

Or more like, in the future I was from, she was a magician that liked to remain anonymous so there is really no significant information about her available.

The only thing I know is her name and a photograph of her, that's about it.

And I have forgotten about this fact, until now.

And also about the fact that she was the one to bring "Scout Scope"

The magical spell that enable others to express their talents numerically.

With this single spell, the magical world took a great leap in advancement.

The level of water magic also increased in general and people were elected into high positions based on their high latent talents instead of their current talents.

On the opposite side, Magicians with a low latent ability were all chased out and put out of jobs.

Just like what happened to me when I got discarded like trash for my low fire latent potential.

Anyways, enough about this.

But what I am confused about is, why the person who hands Scout Scope to the Magician Society is not Milly but Claude?

If I am not mistaken Claude was not part of any guild when she brought Scout Scope.

Milly's guild the Blue Sky Hunters was also not in any of the records that I was aware of, most likely it was extinguished from existence.

Thinking about such things, the cold sweat running down my back does not stop.

Did Milly perhaps die? And after that Claude obtained the scroll of Scout Scope as a keepsake?

No, if Claude wanted to bring fame/respect to Milly's name she would have mentioned it when she brought the scroll in.

Considering that Claude stated her own name in the records, it is likely that Milly's Scout Scope was deprived/stolen.

Milly's Magic scroll which was painstakingly invented by shedding blood and tears.

For someone to deprive such an invention, is akin to trampling down someone whilst they are on the ground and then later boasting about it.

In the Magician Society, this was a taboo, amongst the taboo acts to commit.

Obviously if Milly had been alive at this time, this piece of information would have been disclosed.

How did Claude steal it?

That kind of thing is obvious.

—She Killed.

Before I noticed it, I was glaring right at Claude who was receiving Milly's healing.

I gripped the nape of her neck, and pushed her down to the ground.

「Wh……Wait Zeph! What are you doing!?」

「Stay silent Milly……!」

「Zeph……kun……?」

I continued to strangle Claude's neck right to the very limit.

Even I think I am not being calm.

But I can't stop.

Whilst grasping very tightly I started to raise my fist.

「Zeph!」

The fist I rose up high, slipped past Claude's face and hit the ground.

Before I knew it my hand was tied behind my back.

It was unnaturally twisted up by Claude.

She was the one holding my hand and she continued to tighten her grip.

「Ackk……!?」

「Please tell me the reason Zeph-kun. I may have done something that is terrible to you or I may have disrespected you. But unless you tell me what it is I cannot understand it, nor can I apologize for it」

My arm was shrieking in pain.

In terms of pure Physical Strength, It seems that Claude is much stronger than me.

If this is the case, bring it on!

On the contrary the pain in my arm allows me to concentrate my efforts.

Claude also reacts to the torrent of magic that violently gushes out of me, And……!

「Stop it!!」

Kii～nn a huge ringing sound that made my ears ring resounded, Both Claude and I stopped our movements.

Milly took an imposing stance as she spoke in an arbitrary voice.

I almost thought that my eardrums would burst.

「You guys, that's enough! Especially Zeph!.....Did something happen? 」

「Ah.....no.....errr.....」

「Hm? What? 」

Milly peeks at me who currently have my eyes cast downwards.

Her piercing gaze seems to extract the poisonous air/feeling around me.

「.....I'm sorry, it was just my misunderstanding」

「Aren't you apologizing to the wrong person? Say it to Claude」

She let out a reconciling smile.

I think a little while ago my vision just blurred red and blood was going into my head, but if I thought about it carefully, killing Claude could easily be me coming to my own quick conclusions.

To begin with, the main reason that Claude chose to bring the scroll at such an advanced time in the future is still unclear.

There is also the possibility that Claude did not even get to meet Milly.

.....But shit! I can't get rid of this uncomfortable feeling in my chest.

However, I don't have any hard proof of Claude's actions.

Moreover, from what I can see, the Claude that is presently right in front of my eyes, can be seen as nothing but a good fellow.

She's starting to build a good amount of trust in Milly, and it is likely that they will become good friends.

As much as possible I try to put on a tranquil facade as I request a handshake.

「I am sorry. You had a bug on your face」

「Fu.....Kuku (sfx laughter), what a disgraceful excuse. Let's just forget about it」

「Thanks」

As we were shaking each other's hand awkwardly, Milly also grabbed

on to our hands.

「Alright! Since we have all made up, let's just go home and eat a cookie or something! 」

「That sounds good. I'm, really good at baking cookies」

「Just like a woman aren't you?」

「I am a woman, you know!」

Claude acted as if what happened a little while ago was a trivial matter as she spoke.

Normally if I were to go as far as put somebody in a choke hold, the natural reaction would be to look at me with eyes of criticism/reproach, but I cannot find a tinge of sarcasm or hatred in her voice.

To tell you the truth, I don't really know if something actually happened between Milly and Claude.

However, as much as possible I need to be on the lookout for Milly's sake, right?

People can change in dreadful ways over time.

(Milly)

When I messaged her directly via the guild messaging system, Milly's line of vision turned towards me.

(Can you please not teach the magic of Scout Scope to Claude for me?) (.....Has this got something to do with why you were fighting with Claude a few moments ago?) (Ahh. But I cannot really tell you all the details)

(What's with that?)

(Please, I'm begging you.....!)

I seriously asked her with a solemn face, and Milly was just observing me carefully.

We were like that for two.... no three seconds perhaps?

(.....I understand. However I cannot conceal this from Claude forever you know? After all I like to talk a lot) (I know)

Poka (smack) Milly hits my head.

(What are you doing?!)

(Hey it's not nice to confirm such a thing about a lady! Can't you read the situation a bit more?) (But, isn't it the truth?!)

(Ahh I've had enough! If you are going to be like this I'm going to tell Claude all about Scout Scope) (Don't be foolish! Didn't I just tell you not to say such things?!) 「Excuse me〜.....Would it be alright if you two stop talking amongst yourself in your mind? If I can't join in the conversation won't I be all alonee? 」

Claude was gently scratching her cheek with a face that looks embarrassed/troubled.

Ah, I totally forgot that Claude was actually here.

Milly was also making the same face as me.

——At Milly's House.

We were currently enjoying the coffee brewed by Milly and the cookies baked by Claude.

「By the way, I would also like to be included in your guys discussion when you talk via your minds.....What do I have to do to be able to achieve such a thing? 」

「It will be easy if you just join the Guild」

「How do I do that?」

「Obtaining the guild emblem as an accessory and presenting it to the leader of the guild, will allow the guild leader to attest to the emblem and allow entrance, this is the general procedure. Incidentally, Milly, have you made a guild emblem yet? 」

Whilst munching on her cookies Milly showed a slightly troubled face as she answered my question hesitantly.

「Ahh, umm, err.....The truth is I am still in the middle of thinking about it.....」

Tahahah, she let out an awkward laughter as she scratched her own head.

If I am not mistaken I usually see some sort of scribble in her notebook from school, was that her thinking about the design of the guild emblem?

However considering the guild has been established for several months yet she hasn't yet created an emblem is a little bit of a problem...

「You don't have to make the emblem a perfect thing. It isn't really what represents the true power of a guild. Besides even if it is a little bit awkwardly made, it becomes a unique part of the guild」

「You really think so....?」

「Milly-san it might be really hard to think about it all by yourself, if you have some alternatives how about showing the potential candidates to us and we can all make a decision together?」

「Umm.....Then, would you guys like to see it.....?」

Milly was being really bashful/shy as she took out her notebook from her school bag.

Oi Oi, that school bag is not the place to keep that kind of thing.

When both Claude and I looked at the opened up notebook, we both instinctively gulped down our breaths.

What was displayed was some sort of earthworm like character, and a page full of scribbles.

The whole notebook was pretty much covered in strange shapes and circles.

Some of the patterns look like mysterious magic formations.

「.....Which one do you guys think are good? 」

When Milly asked for our opinion whilst blushing, Both Claude and I were at a complete and total loss for words.

Chapter 29: Attributes

「I've done it! What do you think about this? 」

Milly obviously wasn't cut out to draw the guild emblem, Claude couldn't stand it any longer and she volunteered to draw up designs for the emblem.

The completed product was a picture of a woman hunter placing an arrow on her bow. Claude was able to fix the picture that Milly drew, which previously looked like some sort of earthworm was wriggling across the page forming a mysterious magic formation.

The huntress somehow resembled Milly a little, I feel the overflowing sense of respect coming from Milly.

「Waa, Claude you are really good!」

「What a girlish thing to be good at」

「Like I said I am a girl!」

「Yeah♪ It's really cute and cool! Let's go with this! 」

Milly seems quite taken with the picture.

As for me I didn't really care what the picture was so there is no problem with me.

Claude seems really happy to be praised by Milly.

From the picture on the emblem I also felt that Claude drew Milly with a lot of respect.

「Claude, you really think quite highly of Milly, don't you?」

「Isn't it natural? After all, she is my war angel! 」

She faces me and beams with a dazzling smile.

What a high level pretty boy smile she gave me.

She's still not as handsome as me though.

For someone like Claude who seems to adore Milly so much, just what

on earth could of happened?

Milly took a liking to Claude, and I also feel the same way about Claude.

To begin with as long as I am with Milly, perhaps I can prevent the events from ever happening.

Let's just try to think about things more positively.

「Excuse me.....Zeph-kun is there something wrong? You are staring at me.....」

「I was just thinking about how you were a really handsome youth (Bishounen)」

「Like I keep telling you, I am a woman!」

Whilst Claude was giving me a retort, I quickly grabbed the last cookie for myself.

—-Forest of Kobolds

In conjunction with it being Claude's welcoming party and in order to help out with digesting our meal we decided to go to the hunting ground that Milly discovered.

The person who invited them was me.

The reason is when I used Scout Scope on Claude a little while ago, she had an inherent magical ability "Screen Point" and I wanted to ascertain what this skill actually does.

When a magician runs into a spell that he/she does not know, it is in their nature to want to examine that ability.

However, it was not like she was going to use the ability so readily.

An inherent ability is something that you would usually hide from others, and when confirming that Claude actually possesses the inherent skill, it will be difficult to conceal the existence of Scout scope if I just ask her directly about it.

That's why, instead of asking about it by mentioning its name

specifically , I tried a more casual approach.

Without avoiding the topic, I just casually asked Claude.

「Claude, what types of magic can you use?」

Claude has a change in her expression.

.....I might have been a little to straightforward in asking her.

「How foolish of you～ even if you don't ask her personally, that kind of thing you can just use Scou.....Muguuu!?」

You're the foolish one.

I closed Milly's mouth, and started talking to her via the guild messaging system.

(Didn't I tell you that Scout Scope is a secret between us?!) (Ah, that's right. Sorry, sorry)

As I expected Milly is really loose lipped, geez.

(Try looking at Claude using Scout Scope. Amongst the various magical spell she knows, there is a strange one called "Screen Point" isn't there? Don't you want to know what kind of magical spell it is?) (Ah.....I see, I didn't expect to be able to use Scout Scope in such a manner.....I want to see it!) Both Milly and I floated wicked smiles on our faces and Claude looked at us with a puzzled expression.

「The Magical Spells I can use.....Is it? I can only use elementary forms of magic」

Here comes her excuses...

It would seem that she has no intention of telling me.

Well, it's not like I planned to reveal everything about myself to Claude either, so we are in the same boat in that respect.

「If you really want to make me say it in more detail, wouldn't it be fine if Zeph-kun used the favor you obtained from winning our duel?」

Oh that's right, the defeated person in the duel had to listen to one request from the winning no matter what it was, I had almost forgotten.

「.....No, it's fine. I'm going to use that favor in a different setting sometime later」

「How scary」

Claude shrugged her shoulders and looked at me with fearless eyes.

「.....You wouldn't happen to think of using it for something perverted right?.....」

I totally ignored Milly's question and began moving forwards.

I walked in a rapid pace and Milly was trotting along behind us.

After walking a little while longer, we ran into a gigantic tree, there was no other trees in the surroundings, it was an open space.

「This is the place that Claude was attacked in」

「Pl, please don't say it, Milly-san.....」

Kobolds have a strong sense of group awareness amongst each other, if they see one of their own attacking a lone person, they will start to gang up on that person.

Although Claude's physical attributes are relatively high, her Magical abilities are quite weak and her level is also low.

Although it would have been easier for her to take care of 1 or 2 Kobolds, it would have taken time to defeat them and she must have gotten herself surrounded.

In terms of a Kobolds personality, they are only able to see what is in front of them.

Whilst I was thinking about such things a Kobold appeared in front of us.

It had a blue mane and it seemed like half a person half beast, in its hand it held out a club.

For now let's invoke Scout Scope.

Kobold

LV21

Magical Value 2420/2420

The demon known as Kobold is a simple brute type monster.

Their attributes stats has quite a disparity between each Kobold, therefore it is not possible to just use a large scale magic to attack them with a single attribute.

Although the reason is unclear, it seems that each Kobold's attributes are different according to what weapon they are holding.

Perhaps, it is because their affinity with the attributes differ, but each Kobold has difference preferences for what weapon they like to use.

Kobold's that carry a club are of the red attribute.

Using either Red type or Blue type magic will not really have much of an effect on it.

「Blue Gale!」

Whilst I was still in the middle of thinking, Milly had already casted a Large Blue Magical spell and fired it off.

Oi Oi, there is only one of them, and moreover she is completely disregarding the theory of attribute incompatibility.

The Kobold was hit by a huge gust of wind, and even if I said that the effect would be lessened, Milly was using a Large Scale Magic, so it seems that there is a considerable effect on the Kobold.

「Green Sphere!」

A green ball of light floats rapidly towards the Kobold, and at the time the spell hit, the Kobold was minced and grinded to bits.

After travelling the standard amount of distance the green ball of light disappeared on its own.

——It was the middle grade spell from the Green Magical system, Green Sphere.

One of the special unusual characteristics of the Green System is the

fact that it can actually attack from a long distance.

Green Sphere is only able to float when it travels so it is quite easy to avoid the spell, but it boasts of a considerably high amount of power for a middle grade spell.

In a narrow space or when you have been able to immobilize the enemy using a spell like Green Wall for instance, this would be the ideal time to use the spell.

「We win～♪」

Milly was innocently delighted to have defeated the Kobold, yet I was feeling a little anxious.

「Milly don't tell me that you don't know a thing about demonic attributes?」

「Hm? I know a little bit about it. But I don't really remember all of it」

I sighed as I looked at Milly in marvel.

As I expected of Milly? Or what should I say?

The one thing that a Magician absolutely needs to know about is in regards to attribute compatibility.

Almost every single demon out in this world, possesses their own attributes, and depending on what type of magic is used against them, a great difference in effectiveness will take place.

These principles were driven into me by my Master.

On top of not having that many spells in her repertoire, she is just using the fact that she has high latent abilities to make up for it, and she uses that high spec to win her fights.

Milly's way of fighting is really crude.

If it was just same trashy opponent, then she could probably get away with it, well there was also the time when we fought the King of Death.

It is important for her to know the basics of Combat Techniques.

Well I suppose it can't really be helped because her father who was

supposed to be her Master had died early on……

「Milly」

After calling out to her, I placed my hand on top of her head and gently stroked her head.

「Wait……What are you doing so suddenly! Ah…..Geez…..」

「I will be the one to firmly train you, alright?」

Milly looks down with an embarrassed face as she turns crimson.

If she doesn't know the basics, then I only have to teach her.

If I train her properly then I have belief that she will become one of the greatest mages in existence.

Although she probably won't be as good as me though. (TL: HAHA this cocky bastard~) 「Mi, Milly-san and Zeph-kun are…..In that kind of relationship……? 」

「Y, you're mistaken Claude! We aren't really anything special…… Zeph-kun why don't say something! 」

Both Claude and Milly was going red in the face and their hands were shaking as they started to wave it around.

……These two people, what are they getting so heated up about, I wonder?

A Kobold (Holding a Knife) seemed to be hiding behind the shadow of the big tree, I fired out a Red Blaster right at it.

It was taken aback when it saw my cold glance.

「I don't really know what you guys are going on about, but do it later. We are in the middle of battle right now」

「「Y, Yes….」」

Both Milly and Claude were still red in the face when the confronted the Kobold.

After we defeated the Kobold, the three of us continued our hunt for a

while, but the two of them seemed to act a little bit strange, and they were quite unfocused.

Did I say something weird?

Chapter 30: Money

「By the way Claude, where do you live?」

Time: Evening.

We returned to Nanami town, we were in a vacant lot, inside of a general shop and whilst drinking the fruit juice we bought we were having a little chat.

「For now I am staying at the hotel they use to accommodate adventurers. I've found Milly-san who is worthy of being my lord, however for the time being I decided to stay here at this inn, at least until I can find another place for rent」

Claude has been out of her house for several months now, and it seems that she travelled alone all this time.

She hunted alone, and sold the items she found by herself, furthermore she told me that she used to sleep outside, if she couldn't obtain enough money for lodging.

This was not an unusual set of circumstances for most adventurers. However when Milly heard of Claude's situation, she was awfully surprised.

「That's right Claude. If you'd like, why don't you come stay over at my place? 」

「Eh?……But isn't that a little……」

「Wait! That isn't good! 」

Milly's house has the Scout Scope scroll lying around.

Moreover, if they started to live together, wouldn't various things become troublesome down the track?

It will be too late if something were to happen to Milly.

「Staying at a hotel will provide Claude much more freedom, wouldn't this be better for her? If you must insist then by all means, I have a room vacant at my place, I will lend you that room」

「Th, that is not allowed!」

Milly was desperately denying my proposition.

「Umm I think it will be fine for me to stay at the inn……I am very grateful for Milly's kind intentions」

「Milly, even Claude will feel bad if she has to keep staying at someone else's place right?」

「Well….I understand」

Milly seems to be persuaded.

Claude also seems relieved somehow.

In the end, Claude decided that she would be staying in the inn for a little while longer, whilst we will be helping her find a new place to rent.

「Ohh, well well, if it isn't Claude?!」

Center of Town (Downtown): A man pulls up in a horse, he seems to be dressed in expensive armor and a sword with an expensive looking sheath, and he seems well off.

He has short fair hair which is tied up in the back, he traces his goatee beard with his fingers.

「Elder Brother Kane! What are you doing here? 」

Claude runs towards the person named Kane.

Are they brother and sister?

They don't look the similar at all.

「Why have you come here?」

「I came around here during my expedition. I didn't think that I would be able to meet Claude…..Hmm? Are they your friends? 」

When he noticed that we were with Claude, he gave us a sharp glance.

It seems like he was trying to ascertain who we were.

It kind of annoyed me so I gave a stare right back at him.

I invoked Scout Scope unto Kane.

Kane Leonhardt

Level 45

Magic Value 39

His Magic Value is 39?

If it's this low, he might as well make it 0.

Well, I will recognize the fact that his level is high.

He also had the same skill sets as Claude.

As expected, he had Screen Point as well.

I fear that it's likely that this Inherent Skill is passed down through the Leonhardt Family.

Shit this makes me worried.

「Won't you introduce them to me?」

「Ah, I'm sorry. That is Zeph-kun and that's Milly. I, have been allowed to join their guild」

「I am Milly Reyad and my guild is called the "Blue Sky Hunters"」

「Well well, how very polite of you young lady. My name is Kane Leonhardt. Thanks for taking care of my younger sister」

Milly shows her best behavior and Kane also reciprocates with etiquette.

「You.....You guys are Magicians right? And it would seem that you guys are quite strong at that. Claude you've found a good guild haven't you? 」

「.....Yes」

So he noticed that we were Magicians?

It seems that he wasn't just a dimwit.

Claude look a little depressed somehow.

Was she bad at dealing with her elder brother?

「In any case I need to return to my hotel, you guys should also return early. It's already quite late」

After saying that Kane headed off, he was going towards one of those high-class hotels which existed in the town of Nanami.

Seeing this, Milly had a sudden thought as she cut into the conversation.

「That's right Claude, wouldn't it be fine if you just stay in the same hotel as your elder brother?!」

Milly talked to the two of them as if she thought of a "nice idea".

「It is a shame but that cannot be done」

Kane rejected her proposal with a strong tone.

「The Leonhardt family is a family of Knight's that have a high amount of prestige. Even though she is my younger sister.....I can't stay in the same hotel as an "adventurer". Isn't that right, Claude? 」

「Yes.....」

I have heard from an adventurer in the past who was once a Knight, that there was a very rigid ranking system and order of hierarchy amongst the Knights.

Not only was Claude the youngest child, but she was not even allowed to sit around the same table as her family, She said that she would be driven out of the house once she turned 16 years of age.

Claude was now around 15 years of age? Moreover it would seem that she was already travelling by herself for many years now.

Claude did say that the Leonhardt family was experiencing financial difficulties, rather than losing their prestige as a Knight, their main problem seems to be the severe lack of funds.

However, Kane still wants to stay in such a high class hotel?

What a total show off.

「If he doesn't have much money, why is he displaying such a

pretentious facade」

Kane and Claude's movements both stopped, and they faced towards me.

Ah, my mouth moved without permission.....

After a while of silence, Kane glares at Claude and grabs her collar.

「Kahaa.....!?」

A painful breath is released, Claude clenches her teeth.

Kane's eyes are filled with anger, it was vigorous enough to be categorized as killing intent.

「Claude.....How could you talk to others about our house situation.....?!」

「.....tsu! I'm so sorry elder brother Kane.....」

「Silence! You traitor! 」

Kane made a fist and swung it towards her.

The fist he threw, was aimed right towards her face with enough force to break her teeth, and fling her body towards the ground.

——Although, the person to receive that punch was actually me.

「tsu.....Tee」

The inside of my mouth is cut, and the taste of iron fills my mouth.

I feel my back teeth get cracked as well.

What a crazy amount of power.

No matter the case, isn't she his younger sister?

「Zeph!」

「Zeph-kun!?」

The two girls raised anxious voices and Kane was looking towards us with a scowl on his face.

A little while ago when Kane tried to hit Claude, I teleported in between

the two of them.

After all, the person to make Kane so angry was me.

「I'm sorry Mr Kane. I wasn't intentionally trying to spread rumours, nor was it to make fun of your family. As long as you do not try to cause us anymore trouble...」

Bystanders were starting to gather around us.

The knight who wielded his fist against a small child.

It was not possible to not attract public attention.

「.....Tsk」

He click's his tongue and disappears into the hotel.

The surrounding people seem to be interested in what was going on.

Good grief! Although it was useful, it's becoming a bother if they keep staring at us like this.

「Umm...Thank you very much, Zeph-kun」

「Don't worry about it, It was my fault. Moreover, at that time during our duel, I ran into my own conclusions about you and caused you a lot of trouble」

「I've already forgotten about that, so don't worry about it anymore」

"Ahaha" Claude laughs.

「Seriously, you are always so reckless.....」

Milly used healing on me.

Well this kind of thing wasn't that big a deal though.

I became silent and remained still as she continued her healing.

「I'm sorry, back in the day, my elder brother was a really gentle person.....However I don't know when he started to become like that. As expected being in poverty can cause such a thing」

Claude makes out a lonely laughter.

「If somehow I can raise my fame as an adventurer, do you think I can change things back to the way they were.....?」

Money....

Perhaps she stole Milly's Scout Scope for the sake of obtaining money, I suppose this cannot be ruled out either.

Therefore all I need to do is help Claude with her money problems, and make her able to earn a steady income.

「Claude, the fastest way to obtain money is to strengthen yourself. By becoming strong, and being able to hunt boss monsters, only then will you be able to obtain as much money as you want」

「Being able to hunt bosses, such a thing seems impossible?.....Even with a force as large as my elder brothers, he said that hunting with stability is very difficult. Especially for someone like me, it's too much.....」

「Fufu〜n♪ But we have already defeated a boss, you know 〜」

Milly faced towards me and gave a satisfied smile.

She was blatantly trying to boast about it.

「Is that true!? Milly-san, how on earth did you manage such a feat!?」

「That is〜.....」

Claude draws closer to Milly and has an expression of disbelief on her face, Milly boasted proudly about how she was able to hunt the Boss monster.

If I am not mistaken, boss hunting was not made into a thing yet in this day and age.

At that time, because I was also just starting out as an adventurer, the moment I saw a boss monster my immediate reaction was to run away.

That's because when I went to register as an adventurer, the dangers of encountering a boss monster was warned to everyone so much that my ears could swell like an octopus just hearing about it.

Even in the street stalls around town, there wasn't really that many rare drops from boss monsters.

Furthermore there wasn't any organized parties who were trying to hunt for the King of Death.....

Perhaps, hunting bosses at this point in time will be able to garner us huge amounts of profit?

Chapter 31: Evening

Zeph Einstein

Level 29

「Red」 Magic Value 29, Magic Limit 62

「Blue」 Magic Value 21, Magic Limit 87

「Green」 Magic Value 20, Magic Limit 99

「Sky」 Magic Value 21, Magic Limit 89

「Soul」 Magic Value 20, Magic Limit 97

Magic Power 934/956

It's been a while since I used Scout Scope on myself.

I've been using red magic quite a bit so it ended up being the highest in level. It's the magic I used most in the past, so it's the easiest magic for me to use and I keep unconsciously using it.

If I think about keeping my skills in balance it might be about time for me to use my other magic types.

Right now I'm in the Kobold Forest gaining combat experience with Claude and Milly.

Claude is the vanguard and Milly is the rearguard.

Claude kites the kobolds, and as she does that, Milly fires a magic that is compatible with the kobolds' attribute to defeat them.

Though this isn't an efficient way to gain XP, it is necessary. For these two, it is necessary that I pound the basics of fighting as a party into their heads.

Claude tends to advance too much when trying to defeat an enemy, and Milly follows. She charges in without thinking and shoots random spells.

「Milly-san! You're coming too close!」

「Claude, if I stand back there, it's hard to shoot~」

「Yareyare」a sigh escapes from me.

Even if I tell them they won't understand.

I can only let them learn with their bodies.

A little distance away from the two of them a kobold enters my vision and approaches.

I cast time square and while time was stopped I cast red storm and black storm.

When time resumed, a blazing storm engulfed the kobold and in one blow it was burnt to a crisp.

As I thought, the combination of red and sky magic are really easy to use.

「I think I'll call this spell Pyro Storm.」

Although I've tried quite a few, there were many combination of spells that failed.

For example, when I cast red ball and black crash and they combined, they immediately scattered and wouldn't activate.

If the magic wasn't of the same level, it looked like it wouldn't work well.

Also there's the matter of compatibility, when I cast blue ball and red ball and they combined, it caused an explosion that gave me some burns.

You never know what will happen when you combine magic until you actually try it. It's not good to wait until you're in actual combat to test it.

While the two of them are experiencing combat, I am experimenting with magic.

「Zeph-kun!」

I hear Claude's voice, and when I turn around, I see that Claude is having a hard fight against a group of kobolds.

Milly is also being attacked by two kobolds and it's taking all her efforts to evade them.

「Milly use red wall!」

「Even....if you.....tell me....that.....!」

It seems that she can't use magic while she's dodging so desperately.

That's not all; another kobold appears and joins the group attacking Claude.

I guess it can't be helped.

I take two magic recovery medicines, and then fire my combination magic in Claude's direction.

「Pyro Storm!」

An inferno rages in the middle of the group of enemies, and the kobolds were annihilated.

As for the kobolds remaining... there seem to be five.

Claude can handle that number without any problems.

You could say that Claude is sufficiently skilled for this job.

Milly, on the other hand.....

「Thank you very much, Zeph-kun.」

She gives another refreshing pretty boy smile.

Not as refreshing as mine though.

「Help me over here too~!」

「Milly, you reap what you sow. Fix this yourself.」

「It's like tha~t?!」

The kobold's attacks are nothing special. Even if there are two at once, I want her to deal with them somehow.

When Milly starts to concentrate and use her magic, the kobolds start to attack and this prevents her from casting her spells.

The two kobold team has a good attack rhythm.

Milly is getting short of breath, it seems like she's about to reach her

limit.

Haa good grief, she needs so much looking after.

「Black Wall」

A barrier of wind appears between Milly and the kobolds; the kobold that comes into contact with it is sent flying.

「Ooh!♪Thank you~ Zeph!」

「Now manage the rest by yourself.」

Now that she could take her distance from the kobolds, she hit them with Blue Gale and defeated them.

.....This girl...her fighting style is really crude isn't it.....

Ah well, despite anything else as long as she beats her enemies whatever she does is fine.

「Fu Fu, Zeph-sensei is so soft.」

「Mmhm. I wanted her to handle an area of this level somehow.」

「Milly-san's ability to concentrate is unstable. As soon as she gets impatient she starts to break down.」

「You understand the problem pretty well, don't you?」

Well, all she's done so far has been shooting her white ball at zombies.

Honestly, this is probably the first time she's hunted on the front lines.

So although I may be being soft, this time around I will protect her.

「Look, Milly is getting tired of waiting. Let's hurry up and get going.」

「Fu Fu, that's right.」

Should we keep going like this for a while until Milly gets used to it?

I meditate while I accompany those two.

We continue hunting for about an hour after that.

「Ah, I'm sorry, but it's about time for me to go back....」

「Eeeh? Isn't is still pretty early~?」

「Milly, don't say such selfish things. Also, look at the sky it's getting darker. I think it's about time we call it a day.」

Does Claude have some business to attend to? It seems like Claude can't stay out hunting too late.

Though the present situation is a little unsatisfactory, I kind of expected it when we increased the number of people.

While pacifying the reluctant Milly, we went to leave the Kobold Forest, but suddenly a red kobold appeared.

It was the Kobold Leader.

I cast scout scope on the Kobold leader.

Kobold Leader

Level 42

Magic Power 24412/24412

This guy is just like the beach cave's King Nipper, a mid-boss.

When it noticed us, it let out a roar and summoned its kobold allies.

「Uwa....right in front of the exit....」

「It's ok, it'll be fine as long as we defeat it quickly.」

I wonder if the three of us will be able to beat it without that much difficulty...

Milly cast blue gale on the group of kobolds and they were quickly eliminated, the few that were left were crushed by me casting green sphere.

The remaining kobold leader faced me and swung its sword. Claude stood before me and caught the blow on her shield.

「Spirits of the earth, become the body of armor that provides protection!」

「Safe Protection!」

When I cast safe protection on Claude, she shoots me a look of

gratitude.

It's about time that I attack too, the kobold leader should be of the red attribute I think.

I guess red zero won't see any use once again.

So then maybe Pyro Crash, which I used in the fight against the King Nipper, would be good.

As the kobold leader approached me I tried to cast time square, but it swung its longsword at me and disrupted me.

「Tsk....」

Pyro Crash has a short range, so it won't hit if you don't get close.

It can't be helped, I'll just have to use some other magic.

I cast time square, then I cast red shot and black shot.

A flaming tornado in the shape of a ball is fired from the palm of my hand. It hits the kobold leader and stops its movements.

「Deyaaaaaaaa!!」

That's where Claude started to attack, though it was a nice sword strike with all her effort put in, I don't think it had much effect.

This was because the short sword that Claude was using wasn't enchanted.

Though I must say, Pyro Shot uses little magic energy, but its attack power is similarly low.

I cast Pyro Crash while crouching.....!

In that moment a tornado engulfs the kobold leader.

Milly had fired a blue gale.

I think we have idiot on our hands.

Though I say that, the level of Milly's blue gale is pretty high. Even if it wasn't an attribute the monster was weak against, it worked fairly well.

Milly doesn't have a great variety of magic at her disposal, in this case

she doesn't know any other useful magic.

So I can't really judge her too harshly for this.

Ah well, we'll just whittle him down like this.

I fired a pyro shot at the Kobold leader still inside the tornado.

I meditated while we continuously alternated between firing pyro shots and blue gales at the Kobold leader, and eventually we defeated it.

While we were in the middle of fighting the Kobold leader, at times other kobolds would intrude...it was quite troublesome, but when that happened Claude handled it wonderfully.

It gave the feeling that we could leave it to Claude to guard our backs.

However, when we finished it had already gotten completely dark out.

「Uwaa~ the sun's already set...if I don't hurry back....」

「That's right, I'm really sorry Cla....ude?」

Claude's face had become ghastly pale.

She was covered in a cold sweat and was shivering slightly.

「Claude? What's wrong?」

Milly's carefree voice and Claude's terribly pale face were horribly mismatched.

Chapter 32: Moonlit Night (Part 1)

We stood within the darkened forest.

Claude had an expression as if she was terrified by something.

[Are you okay?] [Let's hurry up and get back ok?]

Our concerned voices seemed like they didn't even reach her ears.

Now that I think about it, she seemed like she was unusually unsettled during the fight with the kobold leader.

While you're fighting it takes up most of your concentration, but once the fight finishes you remember any other tasks you might have.

Now she's covered in cold sweat and her eyes are darting around nervously. She looks very flustered.

[……Umm……yeah……let's return now…..]

She finally squeezes out a response, but it seems quite unreliable at the moment.

We teleport back to the middle of Nanami town, but her mental condition doesn't seem to be any better.

(I wonder what's wrong with Claude?)

(I don't know…. maybe there was some important business she had to take care of. I hope it's nothing bad.) *

Nanami Town

[Ummm…. Thank you very much…..]

When I was thanked with such a pale face, I actually felt worried instead.

[Did you have some business you needed to take care of? If you need any help just ask us.] [Claude, we're comrades don't you understand?] [Umm…. Thank you very much…. But it'll be alright….]

It absolutely doesn't look like it'll be alright though.

It'd gotten completely dark by the time we saw Claude off. Once she had left Milly and I glanced at each other.

[Claude..... I wonder if she'll be alright.....] [I don't know.... let's go check on her tomorrow, and now that I think about it hasn't it gotten really late?] [I guess that's so....] [Now then, I have to hurry home too or my mom's going to yell at me. I'll see you tomorrow] [Mm..... Bye then Zeph]

After I parted with Milly, I hastened my steps.

My destination was of course, Claude's inn.

It was clear that Claude's situation wasn't a trivial matter.

I don't know whether or not this is the trigger that causes Claude to change, but there's absolutely no way I can leave it alone.

I reach the center of town and draw near the traveler's inn, when I suddenly realize something.

Where does Claude actually live?

This is bad.

I came here without taking the time to think it through.

Now then what should I do, as I think that I see Kane exiting a run-down inn.

He seems to have come out of the cheapest and most run-down inn.

Claude is probably staying there.

He himself stays at the highest class in and his sister is left with the worst inn in town, good grief, it must be good to have a high social position.

He's clutching some money in his right hand and he has a smirk on his face.

I understand now.

The reason that Claude was in such a hurry, that is.

I watch Kane as he disappears while casting glances all around, let's go to Claude's inn.

The run-down inn that Kane left, didn't even have a proper reception counter for guests.

I saw Claude's name on a wooden tag leaning on the counter, so I memorized it.

According to the tag Claude is staying in Room 5.

[Welcome, this is the traveler's I..... eh wait a second! You can't just go back there! Kid!?]

I heard the receptionist yelling from the entrance, but I ignored him and continued on into the inn.

I walked down the crumbling hallway, the floor creaking with every step, looking at the numbers on each of the rooms. I soon found room number five and try to open the door.

There's not even a lock, what kind of an inn this is.

As I enter the room I'm assaulted by a stench.

Inside the stinking room, Claude is cowering and sobbing.

It seems like she was beaten, I can see vivid bruises on her body.

That guy did his dirty business in private to keep his reputation clean it seems.

[.....Claude.....!]

As soon as she hears my voice, she turns her tear stained and drool covered face towards me.

[.... If it isn't Zeph-kun. Do you need something?]

Quickly rubbing her face dry, she gives me an awkward and stiff smile that's pitiful to look at.

I say nothing and rush over, I immediately begin removing her clothes to see the extent of the damage.

[Wait..... Please stop now! Zeph-kun you pervert!!] [Shut up! Be silent!]

Overwhelmed by my intensity, Claude shuts her mouth and remains silent.

As soon as I take off her outer clothes, her shivering white skin is revealed, but so are the red marks left by the beatings.

Claude's entire body is covered in horrible bruises and wounds. This is awful.

I was lost for words.

How many beatings did she receive to have become this battered....!

I immediately cast healing to try and heal Claude's body, but my mental state is really unstable so I can't do it as well as I usually do.

[Damn it!!] [.....Having my bare skin seen....it's really embarrassing mou~.....] [That guy... when Kane left the inn he was clutching some money in his hand. So it was Claude's money was it.....?] [Being a knight means dressing up, it's their job to keep up appearances after all.....] [Keeping up appearances is their job you say?! His little sister is staying in such a run-down crappy inn! Like hell I can forgive him for having the gall to steal money from his sister too!!] [Run-down inn..... that's mean of you to say.....]

Ahaha Claude laughs.

There isn't a trace of the usual pretty boy smile to be seen.

With this kind of face, my face is actually better this time, shit!

I don't want to have to see Claude with this kind of expression ever.

I take off my coat, and cover Claude with it, her shoulders begin to tremble as she cries, and I can't find the right words to say.

I turn around and leave Claude's room.

Thud it looks like something hit me in the shoulder.

It seems as though the receptionist has followed me and then bumped into me.

[Oi Oi kid? You can't just come in here willy nilly you know? This is the traveler's.....]

Suddenly the receptionist stopped talking.

I had emitted some magic power.

He turned pale, shut his mouth, and stepped aside.

Now that the path was open, I walked forward as the floor creaked with every step.

I exit the inn and turn towards the Entertainment District, I begin to walk there directly.

It's not a place for children, but that doesn't stop me in the slightest.

On the way a drunk yelled at me, I just fired some magic at him and he sobered up in an instant.

There are lots of glowing magical lights, and I pass by many bars. I enter the biggest bar on the street.

[Young master, this isn't a place for widdle kids you know~?] [Did you come here for your Papa? Tell me his name and maybe I can go call him for you?]

Two men with frightening faces call out to me.

This might be useful in its own way.

They seem to be aware of the fact that I'm a mage, but they still called out to me.

[It's Kane. Kane Leonhardt. He's wearing flashy knight armor, so please call him.]

I frankly reply.

Though it's inefficient to go at this head on, my thinking is a little simplistic as my head is still burning with anger.

[Sorry, but this is a high class establishment. People can't just go in and out as they please. We're here to make sure no undesirables get in.] [Kane-san is a rich guest here. It'd be bad for us if we let a kid like you

ruin his good mood.]

I guess it won't be so easy to get through here.

Yareyare. (TN Da-ze)

–High Class Bar, The Black Cat's Tail

A woman is serving all the Knights here, and they're all drinking together.

There are many empty and expensive sake bottles surrounding the red faced knights.

In the middle of all of them was Kane. He sat there with his arm wrapped around a woman's shoulder.

[Everyone! Good job on today's expedition! Our visit here is a reward for all your hard work!]

It looked like Kane was in a great mood as he raised his glass, drained the sake in it, and brandished the empty glass.

[Today's drinks are on me! Enjoy yourselves all you want!] [OOOOOOOO~~!!!] [As expected of Kane-sama!] [Thank you very much!]

BOOM!!!

Suddenly everyone inside the bar heard an intense crashing boom.

The bodyguards from outside were violently flung into the back wall with enough force to shake the bar, everyone turned to look in my direction.

They should still be alive...

Probably.

I walked forwards, and found Kane's group of merrymakers. At the sight of them laughing and being carefree I felt my magic power boiling and surging even further.

I can't control my rage.

This is pretty bad.

He's Claude's brother so it'd be bad to kill him. But going easy on such a scum seems to be getting harder to accomplish by the second.

Chapter 33: Moonlit Night (Part 2)

I stand in front of Kane's table looking down on them as they stare up at me.

His subordinates are about to stand up when they're stopped by Kane calling out to me.

「You are....I think you were Claude's friend weren't you?」

「Using your little sister's money to treat everyone to drinks, looks like you're living it up」

The knights that seemed like underlings all started to murmur, Kane instantly sobered up.

「.....That's completely untrue, I'd like it if you'd stop spreading lies and rumors now....」

Kane leisurely leans back on the couch, tilts his glass, and fu~u lets out a little sigh.

Something inside me completely snaps when I hear his blatant lies and see his relaxed attitude.

「You son of a bitch... Stop talking shit. I didn't come here to listen to your stupidity」

I raise my hand and call forth a Red Crash.

A mass of flames forms in front of my right palm, it twists and swirls violently as I level it at Kane.

His underlings and the women realize what's happening and immediately start screaming and running away, the glass in Kane's hand is quivering.

Good, very good.

I unleash all my bitter feelings just like this.

Red Crash!!

The inside of the bar resounds with an explosive roar, the sake bottles,

the table, the sofa, all go flying.

The explosive flames scatter everywhere and the flames spread across the walls and floors.

Smoke is covering everything inside while it billows and drifts.

—-In that moment.

I move my body to the side and dodge, as a sword glitters as it slices the space I just vacated.

Are you telling me that he was able to counterattack after receiving my red Crash?

My hot head was slightly becoming cooler, I quickly cast Scout Scope.

No one's there!?

Impossible……

The smoke wavered as he continuously swung his sword.

With this much smoke he probably can't see me either.

He continues to swing his sword randomly….. sharp!

「Tsu!?」

I took a straight blow and Safe Protection was undone.

I retreat backwards, and fire a Black Shot into the smoke.

The air pressure from the ball scatters the smoke and I see Kane, but the magic is erased before it reaches him.

(So that's how it is…..!)

At the same time, Kane drew near me brandishing his sword.

I tried to teleport away, but a sharp pain ran through my foot.

「Gah…..!」

Kane was stomping down on my foot hard.

He had steel boots. I, on the other hand, was wearing leather shoes.

The shoes changed shape without resisting, I wonder if the bones in my

foot broke or not?

(Sealing teleport....This guy knows how to fight against mages!) When you teleport whatever or whoever you're touching teleports with you. (Though walls and floors and things that can't move, won't move with you so there are limits) Because you teleport whomever you're touching along with you, as long as your opponent touches you, you can't run away and the technique is effectively sealed.

Kane stomped on my foot then readied his sword and just like that, he swung down.

Claang!!

The downward slash was stopped by a blonde haired girl.

Their two swords clashed together sending sparks flying as the two stared at each other bitterly.

「Get out of the way.....Claude」

「I won't...! Ani-sama! 」

The one who'd stopped Kane's blow, was Claude.

Though she pushed with all her power, Claude's blade was being pushed back.

「Zeph-kun! Please run away! Magic won't work on my brother!」

As expected that was the case.

Both Kane and Claude had the inherent magical skill Screen Point, this skill probably has the ability to nullify the effects of magic to an extent.

Just a little while ago my magic was erased, and even Scout Scope didn't work properly, because of this I started to suspect this may be the case.

A mage whose magic was rendered ineffective could be likened to having his hands tied and left ripe for the picking.

"Mage Killing Arts"

I already knew the fact that this kind of magic's existed, but I didn't expect to see it so soon.....

「CLAUUDE!!! You're even willing to say that much? Just how many times will you betray the Leonhardt family before you're satisfied?!!!」

Kane's face twisted and strained with anger. Claude was cornered even further. As she endured, Kane easily fended off a blow meant to make him retreat. Even though her blow was repelled, Claude sets her sword stance once more.

Swords ringing each time they met, Claude's body was slowly driven back.

It was clear that Kane was more proficient, both in sword technique and power.

It was a completely one sided fight, it seemed like it wouldn't take long for it to be settled.

「Zeph-kun! Quick get away from here! I can't last for long...! 」

「Idiot! There's no way I can let him get away! He has dishonored the Leonhardt Family! He knows our secret as well! And worst of all this shitty brat embarrassed me in public!!!」

Kane's heavy sword blows fly towards Claude and clashes against her sword.

Her sword shakes and bends, it looks like it might break at any moment.

「This is the END..!!!」

He yells and violently swings down, SNAP! and Claude's sword broke.

The blade spins through the air and sticks itself firmly in the wall. Kane, laughing and grinning, is completely sure of his victory.

「Ku.....!」

「That's enough. The fight's over. Bu~ut, because you're my blood relative, I don't mind forgiving you.....however, you need to kill that brat, right now.」

The fight was over.

And in this fight, their actual abilities were on different levels, so much

so that no matter how many times she tried, it'd probably end up with the same result.

If even an outsider like me can understand this, Claude must've known these things all too well.

Even with all this...

Claude hadn't relaxed her stance.

Clutching her broken sword desperately in her hands, she stood there trembling and shaking.

「Why are you doing this Claude? That brat's basically almost a total stranger to you right? 」

「He's not a stranger to me at all...he's my guild mate and precious comrade!」

「Isn't it all the same?」

「No it's different!!!」

Kane looks at her with a face full of dissatisfaction, while Claude looks back at him while looking like she's about to cry.

Her voice trembles and chokes, while her eyes are filled with tears that are about to spill over.

「I... was always alone....even in the house, even after I was abandoned kicked out by the house....as a woman, even if they treated me kindly at first, I always...always ended up being betrayed...」

Kane is listening attentively. Is he perhaps feeling some guilt?

「That's why at the time I thought maybe if I looked like a man it might be better.... I dressed myself as a man, and when I set off travelling no one attacked or betrayed me.....but I couldn't have any real connections with anyone at all....」

Hmm now I understand, so she was dressed like a man for that reason?

「To distract myself from the crushing loneliness I fought, I fought, and I fought till monsters surrounded me, and when I thought I couldn't take it

anymore and I was ready to give in, Milly-san came and saved me.... Milly-san beat the monsters back while smiling...I will never forget that sight for the rest of my life.」

War Angel.

I unintentionally smile.

You could call this in some way, an important memory for Claude, right?

「Zeph and Milly-san, immediately after meeting me, treated me with such kindness and warmth.....! It was the first time in my entire life that I'd been called a comrade or a friend by anyone! Therefore for their sake... I will risk my life and do everything I possibly can! 」

Claude howls.

「Hou~....You've got a good look on your face Claude. Even though you'd always look down in shame at home....Did you fall in love with this brat? 」

「Zeph-kun was the first person who's ever gotten angry for my sake.」

Kane and Claude stare at each other.

Claude no longer has tears in her eyes.

On her face is the resolve to face death.

「That's why... please run Zeph-kun....」

There's absolutely no way I can abandon a girl like this.

「Claude...」

「I'll be alright so.....!」

This girl seems to have misunderstood.

I wrap my hand around Claude's sword hand.

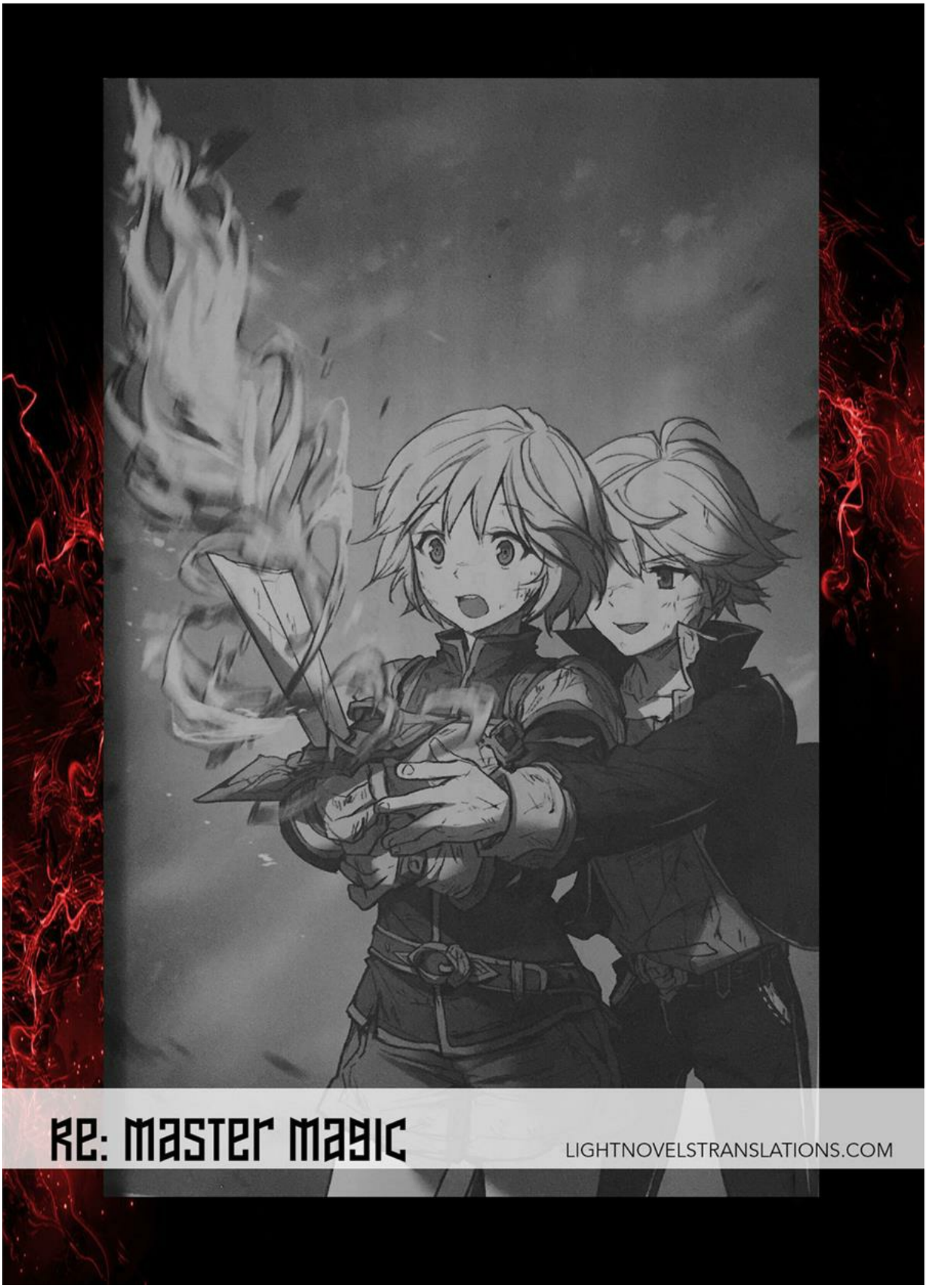
「What are you....?」

I cast Time Square then Red Blaster and Red Weapon at the same time. Claude's broken sword hilt has magic light extending from it to form the

blade of a sword.... Claude was shocked; she spoke to me in a voice filled with surprise and disbelief.

「This is.....???」

「Shall I name this spell, Crimson Blade?」



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Chapter 34: Moonlit Night (Conclusion)

「Crimson.....Blade....! 」

Claude was surprised.

Red Weapon is a magic that enchants a weapon with an attribute.

If Time Square is used, it allows the simultaneous invocation of both Red Weapon and an offensive magic to be mixed together, inventing a sword of magic.

I wasn't really proficient in the use of arms, so I didn't really have an opportunity to use such a spell.

The Blade of Flame rises up from Claude's broken sword, and the flame flickers whenever it moves, tearing up any leftover smoke within the room.

「If it's with this.....!」

Claude swings her fiery sword at Kane.

Kane's sword was decorated with silver ornaments, I dare say that the hilt of his sword was enchanted to increase its offensive power. An average sword wouldn't be able to last a second against it. However, that is only if it was an average sword.

「Haaaaaaaaah!!」

「What of it!」

Kane received Claude's vigorous slashing attack head on. Just like butter his sword was cut in half beautifully.

The blade falls and rolls toward the ground.

「This can't be.....!?」

「Elder Brother, your Screen Point is the strongest amongst our Leonhardt family. The moment Screen Point is deployed, Elder brother will be immune to all types of magic」

Kane had a doubtful look on his face, and Claude has a grin on her face.

「That's why, you will certainly be fine, right?」

A contemptuous smile floated across her face as Claude continued to swing her magical sword.

Kane didn't have a weapon any longer, and it seemed to be difficult for him to avoid the blow.

With each attack, Kane's armor and clothes are ripped to shreds, however there wasn't a single mark placed on his actual body.

The Crimson Blade that Claude was currently wielding, was filled with the magical power from my Red Blaster. Amongst the various spells in my arsenal Red Blaster was one of my stronger offensive spells.

What a terrifying ability.....Screen Point.....

And above all the scariest thing was.....

Kane's clothes were torn asunder, and his bare skin which seemed to be forged with muscles started to peek through.

This is no joke.....

Claude was carving out Kane's clothes as if she was possessed by a demon.

Did she hate her brother to this extent?

「Kuu.....Claude you bastarddd! 」

Kane was stripped until all he had was a pair of underpants, he glared at Claude in frustration and hatred.

.....I don't feel a shred of sympathy for him.

「Commander Kane, for us to have abandoned you and run away by ourselves, please forgive us!」

「I will come to assist you! Commander Kane! 」

After the smoke cleared up, Kane's subordinates seem to have returned.

「Com.....Commander Kane.....?」

Kane's unbecoming appearance was shown in front of all his

subordinates.

A sword was pointed at him by his own younger sister, and he was only wearing his underpants, it was an indescribably miserable appearance.

.....Just a little bit, I felt pity for him.

「Oi.....You guys.....Don't look! Don't look at mee!!!!」

「H.....However if we leave you, Commander Kane will.....」

「It is 1000 years too early for you guys to worry about me! Hurry up and disappear! 」

Looking at Kane's face who was dyed red with both anger and shame, the rage within me completely disappeared.

Claude also seemed to have a completely refreshed face.

It was like she was dispelling her long-held grudge, she accumulated over the years.

She brought the sword up in a threatening manner, and declared to Kane.

「I will no longer be related to you Leonhardt people! I am Claude! Just Claude! 」

Zan! Claude resolutely declares.

Kane, his subordinates and even I was swallowed by the spirit and vigor she displayed.

――-And after a while of silence.

Kane was gritting his teeth together, and clenching his fist, he shouted back towards his subordinates as he held on to his last strand of slipping pants.

「What are you all vacantly staring at! Do it! Hurry up and attack! 」

「However, that person is Kane's younger sister.....」

「Didn't she just declare the opposite just now?! Just do it! 」

――-Is this a good time?

I invoked Time Square, combined both Red Wave and Blue wave and fired it off.

An explosive sound along with white smoke envelops the room.

「Commander! It's a smoke screen! 」

「Advance! Chase them!!」

「That is too rash.....」

The other party was confused at what to do, I grabbed unto Claude's hands.

(Zeph-kun!)

(Claude, over here!)

Normally when you combined a spell from the red branch with the blue branch, their incompatibility would have a high probability of causing an explosion, however when a low powered spell, with wide area of effect like "Wave" is combined, it is possible to create a smoke screen.

Shall I name it Burst Wave?

I pulled unto Claude's hand and run towards the exit of the shop.

The more steps I took forward, the throbbing pain in my legs kept increasing and my feet became heavier, cold sweat was running down my back.

Have I over exerted myself?

Whilst I was thinking about such things, suddenly my body started to float in midair, and I feel the sensation of a soft body embracing me.

「Please hold on firmly.....!」

Claude carried me in a princess style carry and ran out of the shop.

A man with black clothes was still unconscious on the stairs near the exit.

「They are over here! Get them! 」

The black clothed man probably called for his comrades before he

fainted. The reinforcements arrived pretty late but they each had weapons and was quickly approaching us. Before they got to us, I invoked teleport and flew to the top of the building.

「Shit, they escaped using teleport! 」

「They are magicians! Isn't there anyone here who can use teleport to chase after them?!」

「If I did have such an ability, why the hell would I remain a mercenary?!」

Claude was quietly looking at the men below who was still fighting amongst themselves.

「It would be good if none of them saw our faces」

「We were probably seen by your elder brother and the shop clerk」

It was possible that we could become wanted for causing damage to the shop.

If so then the magicians from the Magical Association Society will be dispatched to find us, and we will probably be caught.

They had many peculiar magical abilities that we were not aware of, and considering the amount of people working for the Magician Society, they could be described as an extremely strong group.

Moreover, using investigative type magic, there are various methods in which they can use to track down other magicians.

Therefore when forces from the Magician Society are dispatched. Most criminals are quickly caught.

Well, we are just a bunch of kids, plus it's our first offence so it's probably just some sort of a monetary penalty.

It would seem that my debts are getting bigger.....

「I think that it might be alright. I don't think elder brother, will dare to make this known to the public」

「Indeed, he would become the shame of the family, I suspect that he

will keep silent.....However, the shop owner whose shop was completely trashed will probably make a complaint....」

It's a really bad habit of mine.

The moment blood goes up to my head, I immediately lose my composure.

My master had always warned me to be more careful, but this particular aspect of mine could never be changed.

「Let's apologize for that later? A fight in a bar is an everyday occurrence, and if we show our sincerity to the owner, it is likely that we can get off with paying some money, right? 」

Claude was smiling sweetly, with his usual dazzling smile.

It seems that she has got back to normal, what a good pretty boy smile.

Although it's not as good as mine.

I also showed her a big grin, and she probably knew what I was thinking.

Claude watches me with a tender smile.

Her gaze was too pure for me, that I became a little embarrassed and looked away.

「Thank you very much. Zeph-kun」

「I only got angry by myself, and I raged about without permission. Moreover, in the end I was the one getting saved by Claude. You don't have anything to be thankful about」

It's really an embarrassing thing.

Claude continues to look at me whilst smiling.

Oh Please stop it already you baka.

I'm not really that good of a fellow.

「Claude, you said that I was the first person to become angry for your sake. That is not true」

「Yes?」

Claude was slightly dazed, I pointed my fingers at the direction of the shop.

Over there was the figure of a lone girl who was searching for something.

「Milly-san.....?」

「After today's parting, we sensed that something was a little bit weird with you. That's why I bet that she also felt really worried and searched for you」

She must have thought the same thing as me.

「This time around, it was by chance that I was the one trying to help Claude, however if things went a little differently, it could of been Milly trying to help you」

「That....Is true....」

Claude looks down.

Her pupils were a little moistened with tears.

「Also when I started to hit Claude, the person who got angry and scolded me, and the one who stopped us was Milly, right? So the first person who was angry for your sake was actually Milly」

Amongst all the hustle and bustle down there, Milly pushed her way through the crowd and was restlessly looking for us.

Even now I could tell that her face was full of worry and anxiousness.

She would bump into an adult and fall to the ground, but she would quickly get back up and begin to search for us once more.

Seeing such a scene in front of her, before she knew it, her eyes began to dribble down with large drops of tears.

「Remember that deal we had, you told me that you would listen to a single request from me if I won that duel, right?」

Claude who was still crying turned to face me.

「Never betray Milly. No matter what happens, you will protect Milly, together with me」

「.....That kind of promise, there is no meaning to it.....」

She wiped her tears from her face, and looks up towards me with a smile.

「That's because I have been planning on doing that from the beginning!」

Under the Moonlit Night, Claude was smiling at me with the best pretty boy smile I have ever seen.

Although it still wasn't as good as mine~

Chapter 35: Departure

I thought it would be mean to keep Milly hanging like that as she was frantically searching for us, so I sent her a guild message.

(Milly, up here. We are on the rooftop of the bar in front of you) (Zeph!? Are you okay!?)

(Or more like, if you were searching for us, you could have just called out to us using the guild message.... right?) (Ah, that's true.....I completely forgot)

It's probably because she was in a panic.

Another thing is that Milly is probably not used to communicating with guild messages.

When I think about it, she's never initiated a guild message with me by herself.

I mean even during the time when she visited my house in search of me, if only she just used the guild messaging system, she would have been able to contact me.

「Claude! Zeph! Are you guys alright?!」

Whilst she was wondering about our wellbeing, she quickly teleported to where we were, on the rooftop of the bar.

Seeing how worn-out and tattered we were, her expression immediately changed.

「You don't have to be so worried. I'm fine, it's only to the extent that my foot is broken」

「Me too, I only have a few cuts on my arms and legs here and there」

Milly expression continues to keep changing.

She looked as if she was about to cry at any moment.

Is that so? We must look really bad right now.

She spread out her arms and quickly rushed towards us, and she

wrapped unto our necks.

Her body temperature was transmitted through her arms and the side of my neck was sweating a little.

I knew that she was trembling as she firmly grasped unto our necks.

I placed my hand on Milly's head and began to brush it gently, and her body starts to tremble even more than before.

She gradually begins to cry, and as if Claude was influenced by Milly, she also begun to weep together.

Seriously, these two people...I suppose it couldn't be helped.

For a while I just silently stared at the stars in the sky.

For several days after the incident, various rumors spread about the magicians who went on a rampage, however after a while those rumors completely died down.

It was probably Kane who covered up the incident to protect his own integrity.

As for me I also delivered an accessory of mine to the bar owner so that I could avoid further problems.

With this, excluding my consignment of items to Lydia, I've become completely broke.

Even so I have managed to avoid being wanted by the Magician's Society so all in all it wasn't too bad.

Long ago, I had also used the services to request a dispatch from the Magician's Guild, and that's when I found out how terrifying they could be.

If possible this time around, I would like nothing to do with them.

.....However, considering the type of personality I have, this is probably impossible.

And as expected, it is probably a good idea for the group to leave Nanami town for now.

This kind of thing is surely going to occur many times in the future, especially with my kind of character.

Mother is also here in this town, and if I continue down this path, I am afraid that I will one day cause some sort of big trouble for her.

The item I consigned to Lydia is probably going to be sold any time soon, so I think that I can live with the amount of money right now and manage to get by.

It really isn't good for a woman like Claude to live in such a worn down inn.

I think that she's become a lot stronger than when I first met her, I am sure that she will be able to earn a proper living now that she cut ties with her brother.

I also resigned from school.

School was an optional thing, and if you had the ability to adapt to the societal standards, you could take a test to judge your abilities and if you passed the special graduation examination, it was possible to stop going to school.

Although of course such an occurrence was really irregular.

Unless it someone like our group who was classified as being "useful to the society", it is unlikely for permission to be granted to leave the school.

With that purpose in mind, both me and Milly was able to pass the test without any problems.

The problem was convincing Mother.

My Mother was washing the dishes in the kitchen.

She seems to be in a really good mood, perhaps I shouldn't kill her mood by telling her about my decision to leave right now?

I think it is better if I leave it until tomorrow……

Eei, Even if I hesitate like this, what's the point! I'm going to tell her now! Let's do it!

There's no use in prolonging the inevitable anyways.

「Kaa-san(Mother), could I talk to you for a little bit?」

「What is it〜?」

When I called out towards my mother, she answers back whilst continuing her work.

Uuu.....Crap, I'm getting really nervous.

「I am thinking of leaving school and becoming and adventurer」

「.....」

Mother doesn't respond to me at all.

I also have no clue about what I should say at this point in time.

However I am determined to go.

「If I continue to stay here, I am afraid I will cause a lot of trouble for Kaa-san.....That's why I.....that is.....」

「Zeph」

I was getting flustered and didn't know what to say, when she gently interrupted me.

「You know, I realized it recently? Zeph is very.....grown up, I've even thought that perhaps you've actually become even more of an adult than me. And, even still, I think that Zeph hasn't changed one bit」

Mother stops washing the dishes, and she stands behind me whilst talking affectionately.

「Milly-chan and Claude-kun are also coming with you right?.....I hope you get along with them」

I was sitting in the chair when she suddenly embraced me firmly, that warmth suddenly rushed through me and my eyes were becoming hot.

Shit, Hold it in!

I'm being so pathetic!

「Nevertheless I have two things I want to say to you. Kaa-san has never

thought for even a second that you were a burden to me. You can always depend on Kaa-san no matter what, kay? 」

The tears which were collected in the corner of my eyes began to spill along my cheeks.

She's always like this.

Mother always understood everything about me, even so she would whole heartedly accept all my flaws and permit them.

「And one more thing」

This isn't good, if she keeps this up I can't guarantee that I won't break apart.

I will end up crying miserably.

Shit, Please stop you stupid tears!

「.....Make sure to call me when you get married to Milly-chan! 」

.....Ha?

When I turned around to face my mother, she had a face full of smiles.

I had completely no idea what she was saying.

「.....Kaa-san, Milly and I aren't in that kind of relationship....you know? 」

「Eh? You aren't? Don't tell me you already laid your hands on another girl as well? 」

「Of course not!!」

Oh god.....Just when I thought that she understood everything about me, it feels like she knows nothing about me at the same time.

The tears that was rolling down my face a minute ago was completely dried up.

To begin with, what was she trying to tell a 10 year old brat like me?.....

That night, I wasn't allowed to return to my room and my Mother began to ask me all kinds of questions about the girls really persistently, but I

managed to answer them all appropriately.

The preparation several days before the departure was a seriously troublesome thing.

Truly.

———And during the morning of the departure.

「Alright, well Aunty, we are heading off!」

I finished all the preparations for the departure, and Milly comes to my house to pick me up.

Both Milly and I barely carried any luggage.

For the time being we wanted to head towards the City of Beruta, and after securing a place to live, we would go back and grab the bigger luggage.

「Milly-chan, come here for a second」

「Yes?」

Mother calls for Milly, and whispers something in her ears.

I bet she was whispering some silly thing as per usual.

Good grief, what a meddlesome parent she is.

I let out a sigh, as I waited for Milly to run towards me.

「Sorry for the wait」

「What did she say to you?」

「She didn't want Zeph to hear, and besides she told me to keep it a secret〜」

Milly let out a giggle.

Goodness me, what a troublesome parent.

We started walking on the footpath towards the town exit.

Will this be the end?

Even Milly who was usually overly talkative to the point of being

annoying, was really quiet today, as if she was thinking about something.

For some reason, I kind of feel uncomfortable.

「Which reminds me, is Claude waiting for us at the gate?」

「Yeah, she told me that it would be closer for her」

We started to walk in silence again.

We pass the shopping district and head out of the park, we were about to reach the outside of town.

As Milly approached the outside of town, she was becoming more restless.

.....What did Mother say to her? Seriously.

When we walk past this road and go across the bend, Claude would be waiting for us at the gates, suddenly Milly halts her movements.

「Ahhhhhhh!! I've forgotten something! 」

「Ahh is that so? In that case I will go wait over there with Claude, Milly should go get.....」

Just when I was about to finish my sentence, Milly suddenly grabs my hand and started to run.

「Mi.....Milly? 」

「It's something really heavy! Zeph should come and help me out」

In that case, wouldn't it of been better if we had Claude come help as well?.....Just as I was about to say such things, she pulled herself in and embraced my arms, her body was firmly pressed against me.

I could feel two small bulges pressing against my arm and my slender hands fit quite nicely in the small crevice of her growing bosom.

She must have realized what she was doing, Milly's face was flushing up a little.

Is this what Mother whispered in her ears?

「.....I understand. Look, we should quickly get the item, otherwise we

will make Claude wait for too long, alright?」

「Th.....That's right! Let's go quickly!」

Saying such things, Milly stuck her body to my hands even more strongly and began to walk slowly.

It ended up taking twice as much time as it would have, and by the time we arrived at the gates, Claude who was waiting for us ended up dozing off to sleep.

I'm sorry Claude.

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